DANIE WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#21

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-ONE

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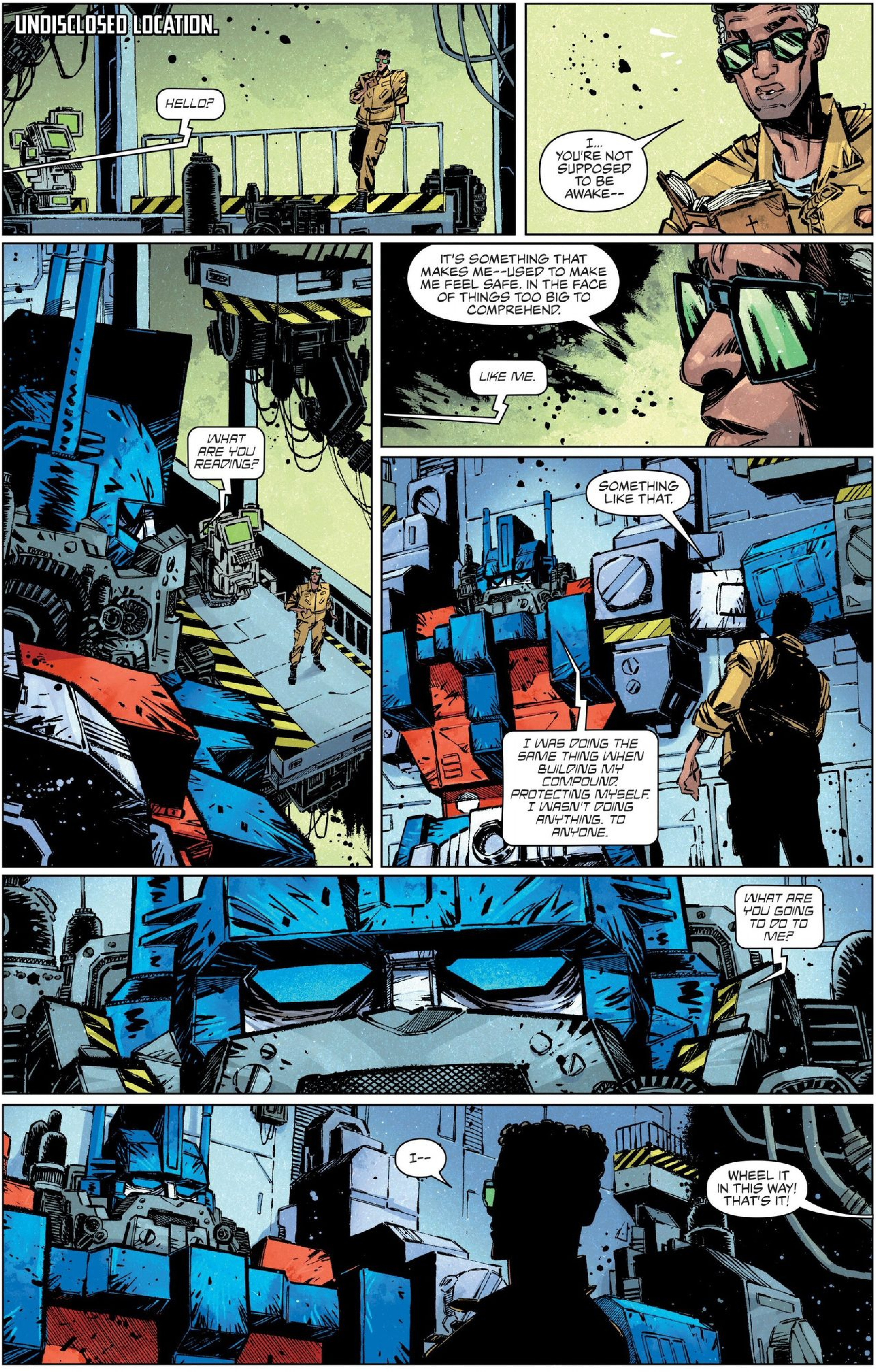
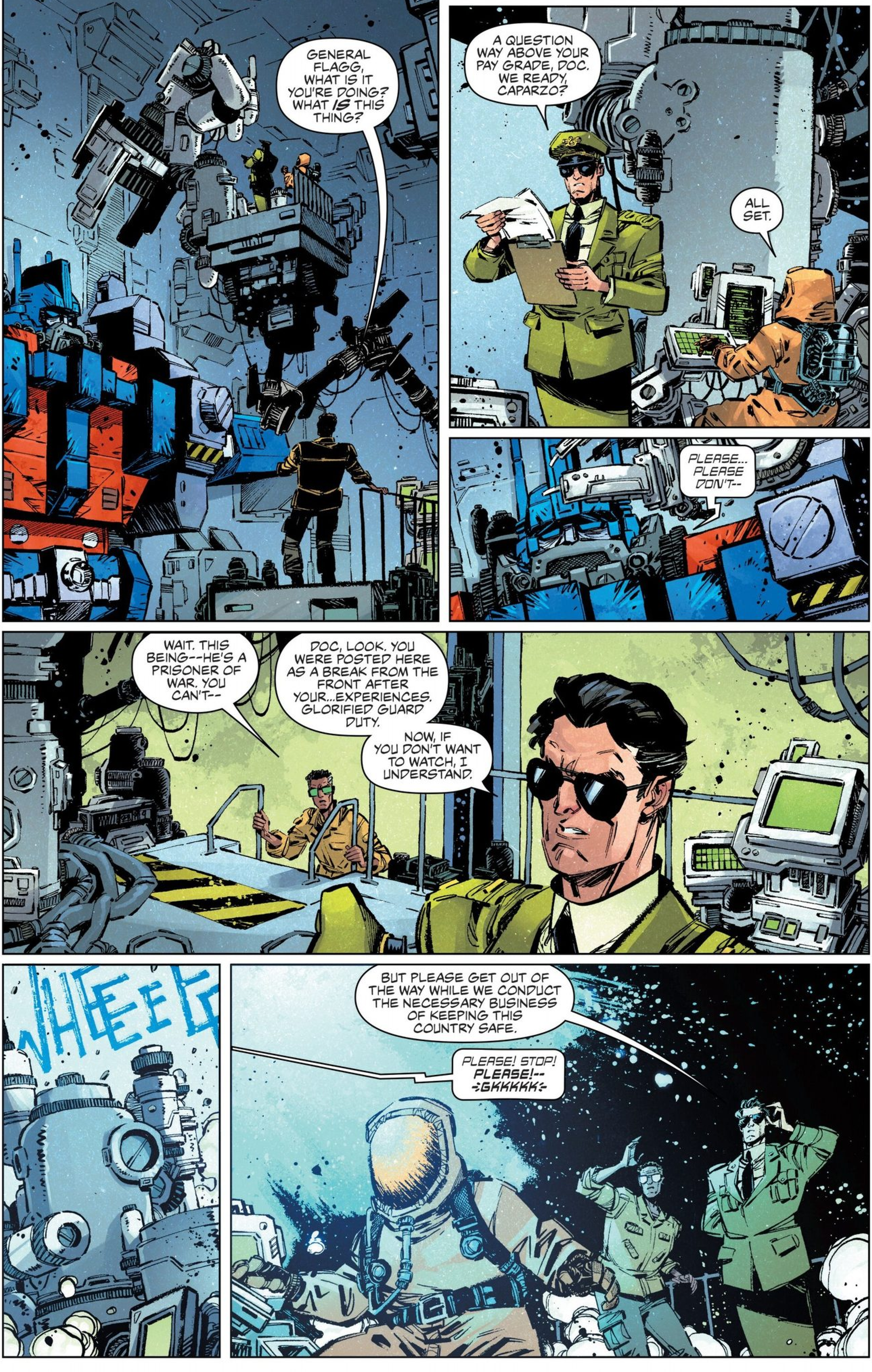
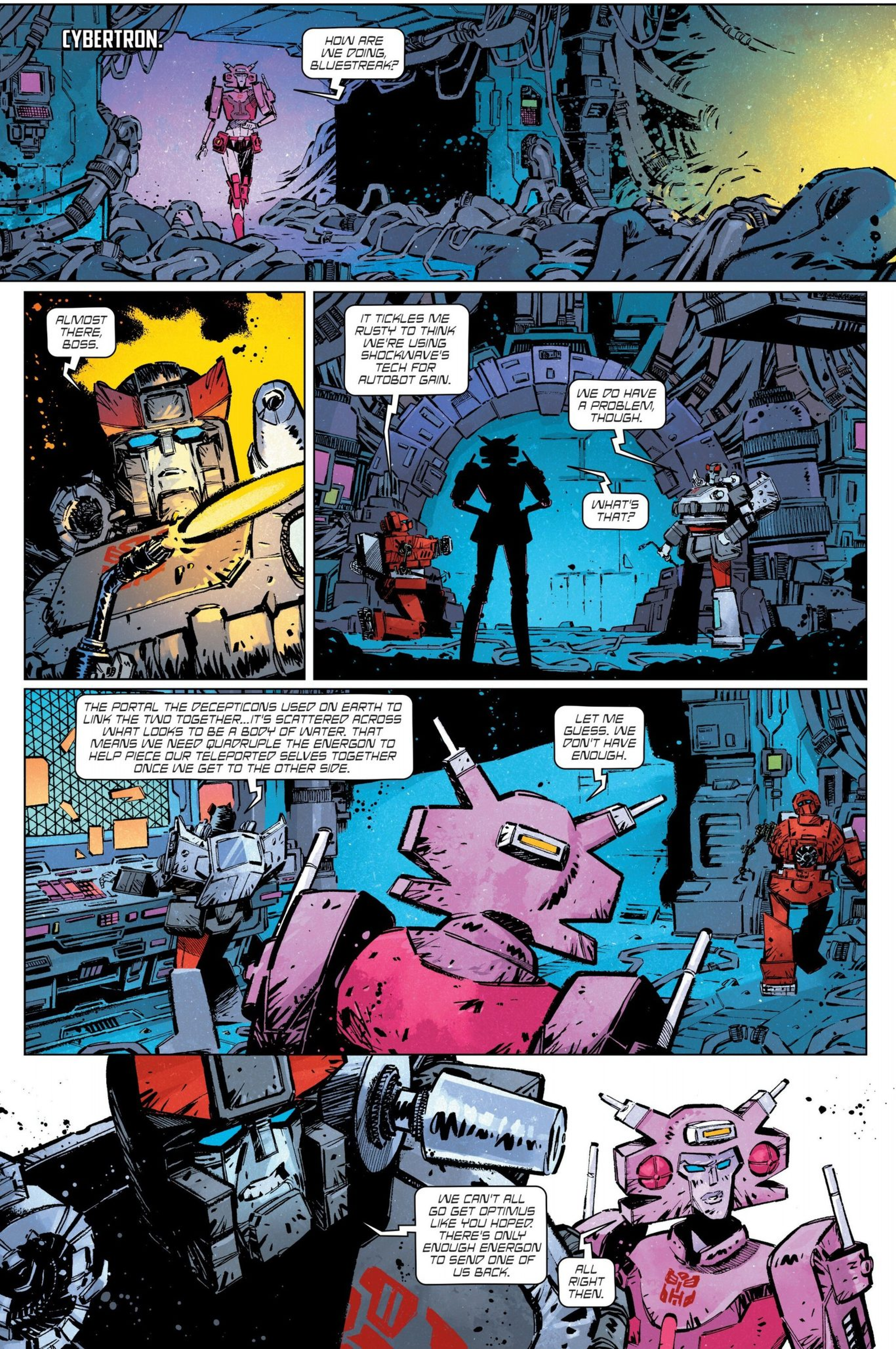
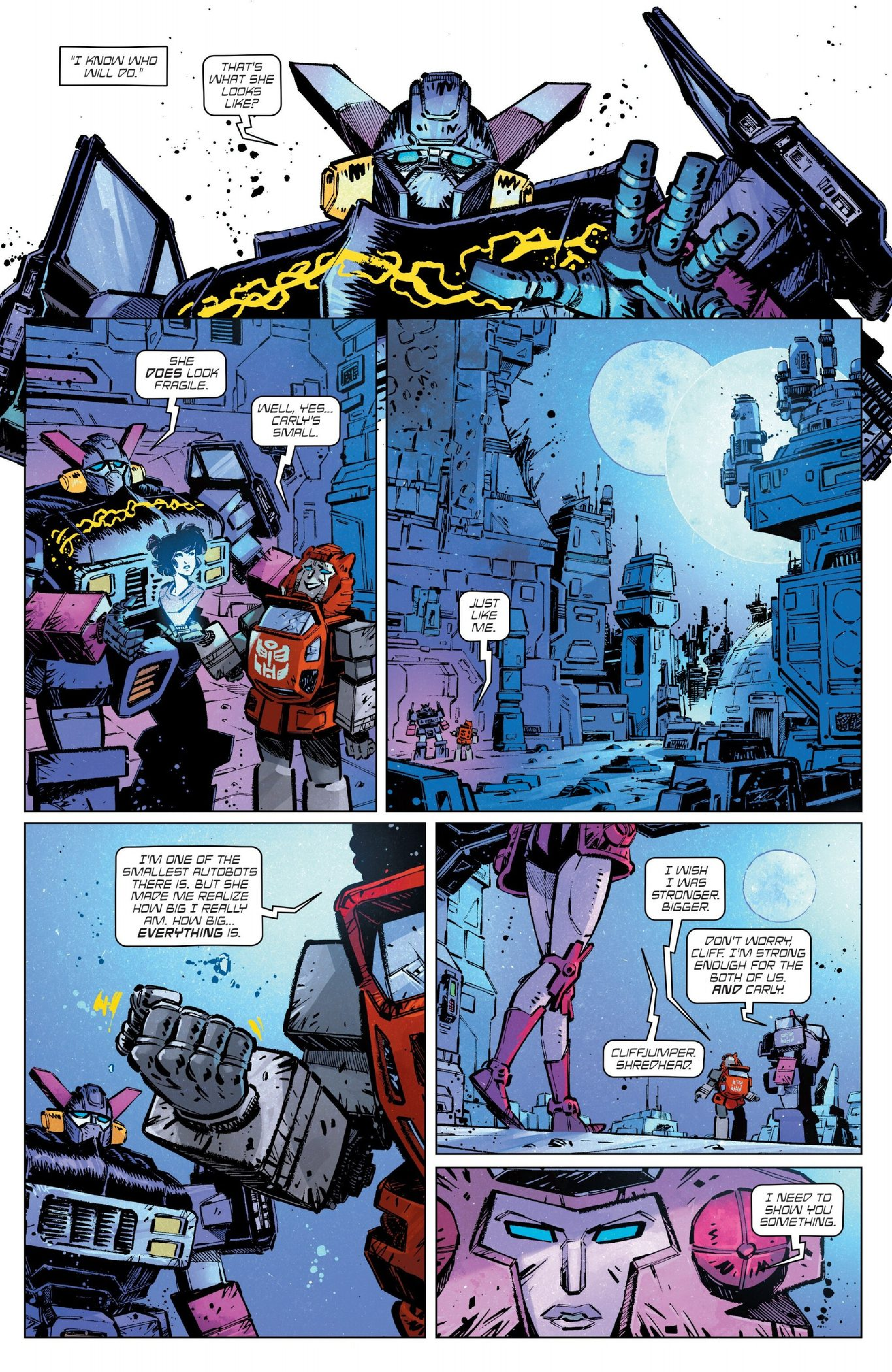
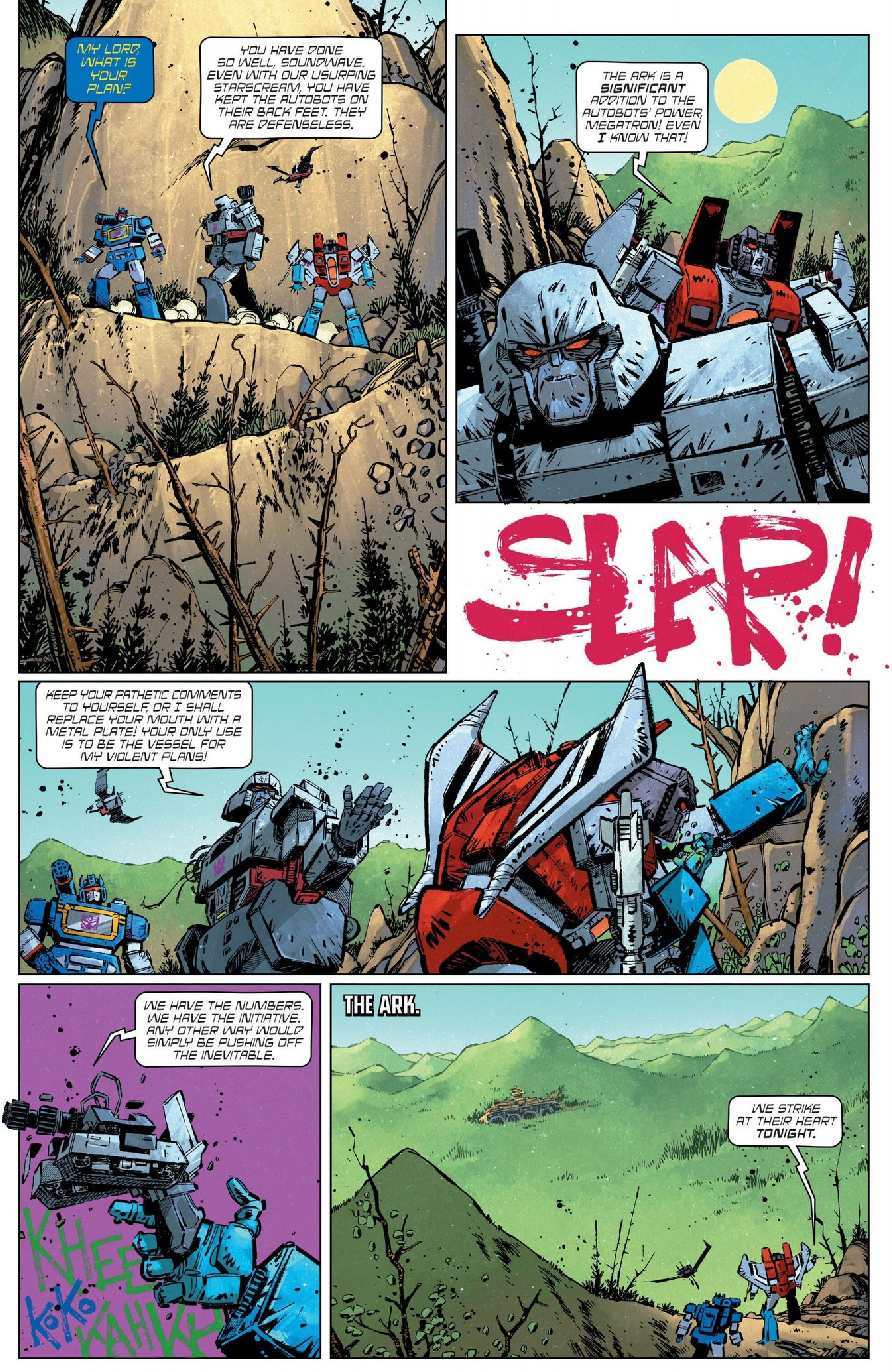
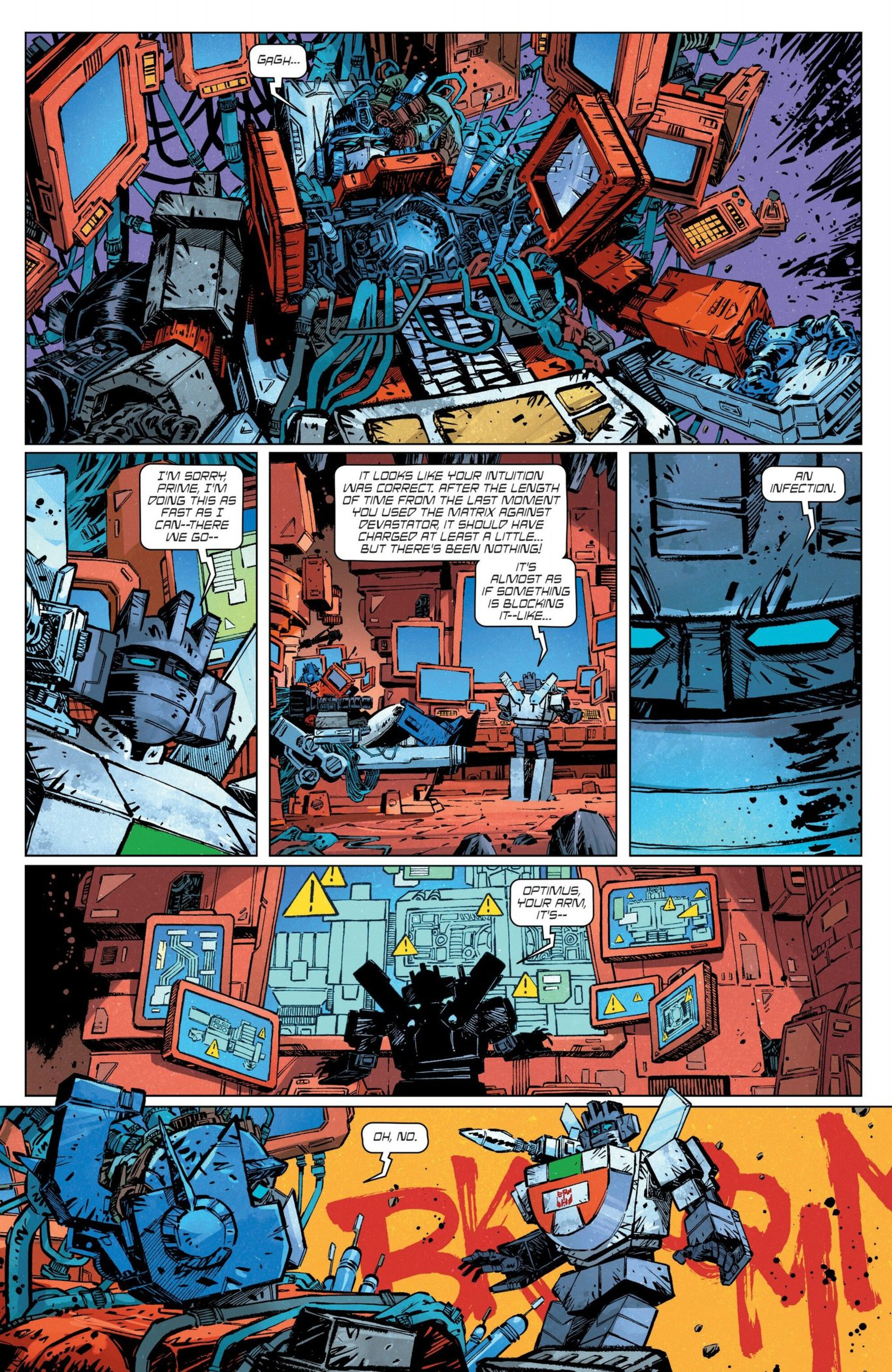

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
HELLO?
I... YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AWAKE--
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
IT'S SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME--USED TO MAKE ME FEEL SAFE. IN THE FACE OF THINGS TOO BIG TO COMPREHEND.
LIKE ME.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I WAS DOING THE SAME THING WHEN BUILDING MY COMPOUND. PROTECTING MYSELF. I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING. TO ANYONE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
I--
WHEEL IT IN THIS WAY! THAT'S IT!

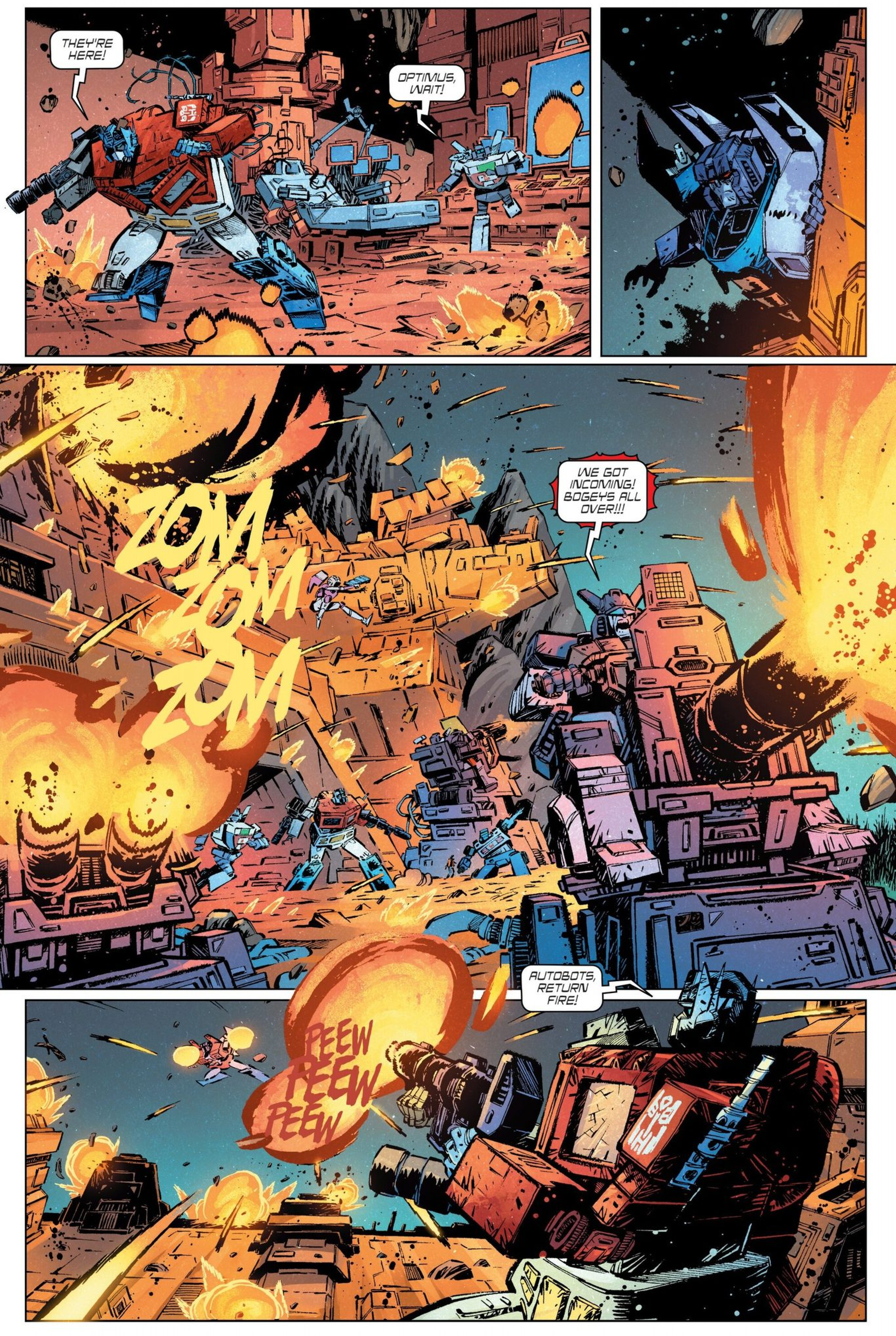

GENERAL FLAGG, WHAT IS IT YOU'RE DOING? WHAT *IS* THIS THING?
A QUESTION WAY ABOVE YOUR PAY GRADE, DOC. WE READY, CAPARZO?
ALL SET.
PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T--
WAIT. THIS BEING--HE'S A PRISONER OF WAR. YOU CAN'T--
DOC, LOOK. YOU WERE POSTED HERE AS A BREAK FROM THE FRONT AFTER YOUR...EXPERIENCES. GLORIFIED GUARD DUTY.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WATCH, I UNDERSTAND.
WHEEE
BUT PLEASE GET OUT OF THE WAY WHILE WE CONDUCT THE NECESSARY BUSINESS OF KEEPING THIS COUNTRY SAFE.
PLEASE! STOP! ***PLEASE!--*** ***-GKKKKK-***

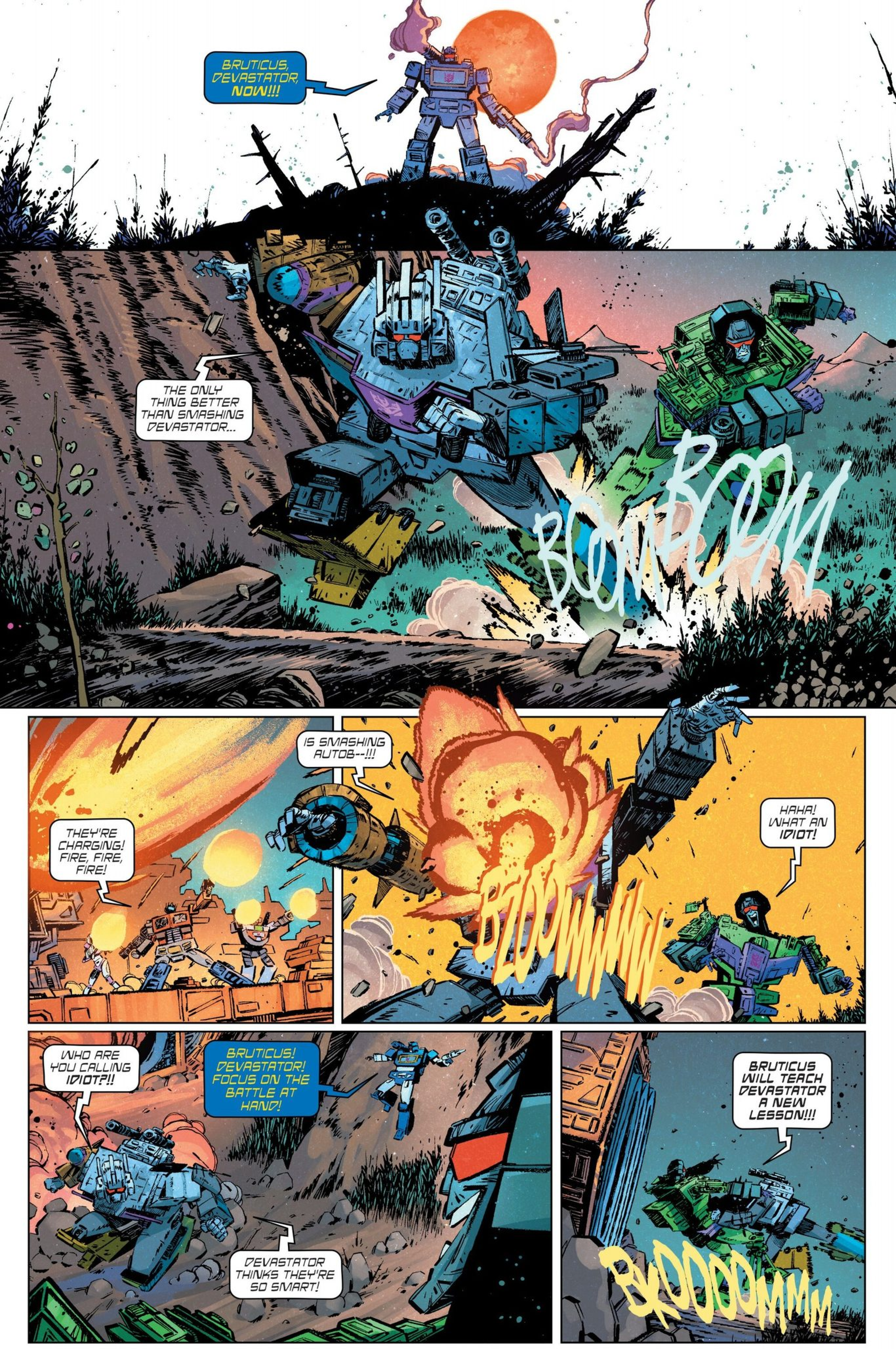

CYBERTRON.
HOW ARE WE DOING, BLUESTREAK?
ALMOST THERE, BOSS.
IT TICKLES ME RUSTY TO THINK WE'RE USING SHOCKWAVE'S TECH FOR AUTOBOT GAIN.
WE DO HAVE A PROBLEM, THOUGH.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE PORTAL THE DECEPTICONS USED ON EARTH TO LINK THE TWO TOGETHER...IT'S SCATTERED ACROSS WHAT LOOKS TO BE A BODY OF WATER. THAT MEANS WE NEED QUADRUPLE THE ENERGON TO HELP PIECE OUR TELEPORTED SELVES TOGETHER ONCE WE GET TO THE OTHER SIDE.
LET ME GUESS. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH.
WE CAN'T ALL GO GET OPTIMUS LIKE YOU HOPED. THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH ENERGON TO SEND ONE OF US BACK.
ALL RIGHT THEN.

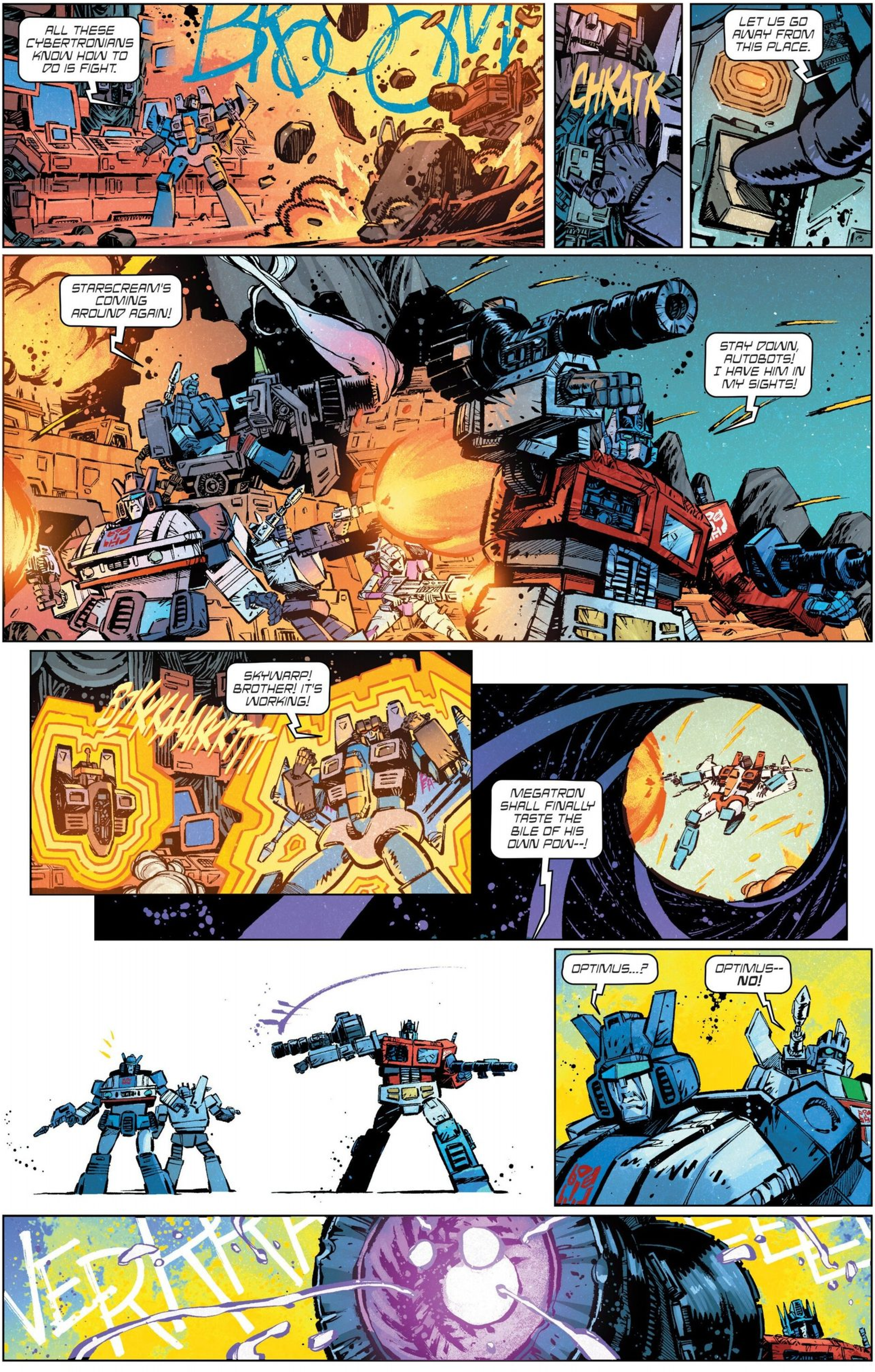

"I KNOW WHO WILL DO."
THAT'S WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE?
SHE **DOES** LOOK FRAGILE.
WELL, YES... CARLY'S SMALL.
JUST LIKE ME.
I'M ONE OF THE SMALLEST AUTOBOTS THERE IS. BUT SHE MADE ME REALIZE HOW BIG I REALLY AM. HOW BIG... **EVERYTHING** IS.
I WISH I WAS STRONGER. BIGGER.
DON'T WORRY, CLIFF. I'M STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US. **AND** CARLY.
CLIFFJUMPER. SHREDHEAD.
I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

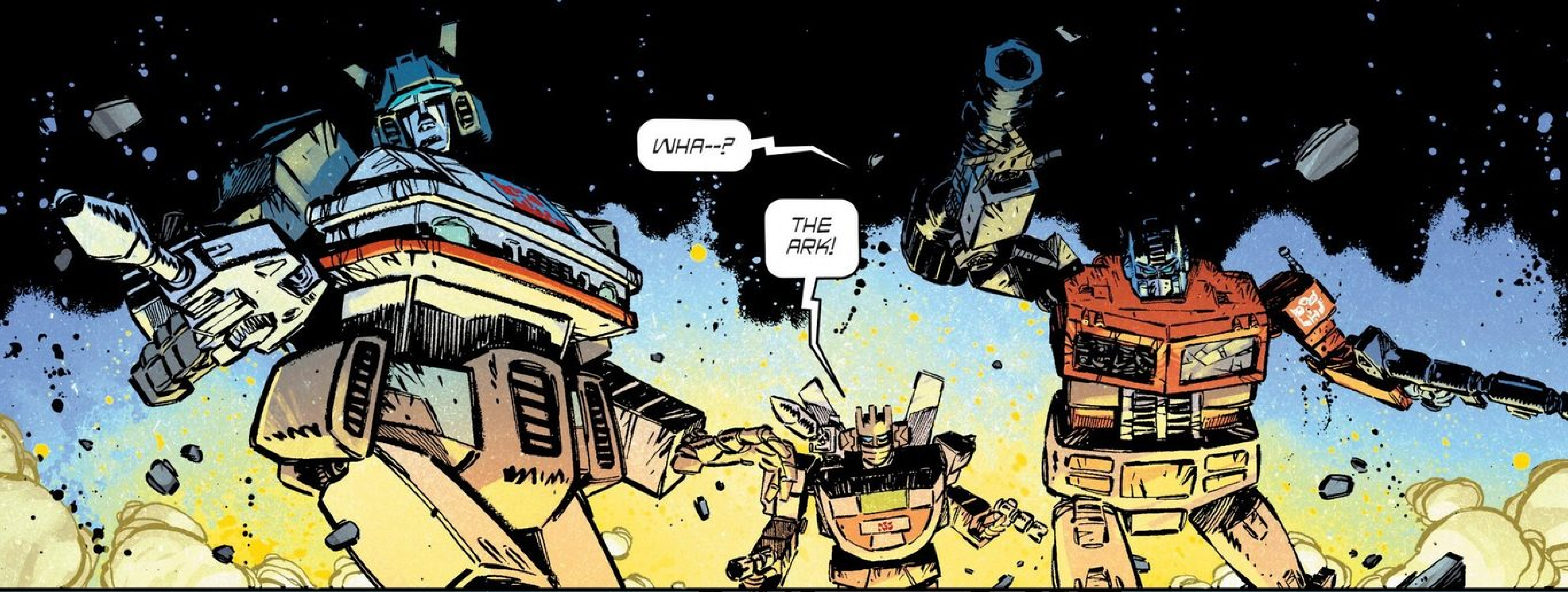

MY LORD, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
YOU HAVE DONE SO WELL, SOUNDWAVE. EVEN WITH OUR USURPING STARSCREAM, YOU HAVE KEPT THE AUTOBOTS ON THEIR BACK FEET. THEY ARE DEFENSELESS.
THE ARK IS A **SIGNIFICANT** ADDITION TO THE AUTOBOTS' POWER, MEGATRON! EVEN **I** KNOW THAT!
SLAP!
KEEP YOUR PATHETIC COMMENTS TO YOURSELF, OR I SHALL REPLACE YOUR MOUTH WITH A METAL PLATE! YOUR ONLY USE IS TO BE THE VESSEL FOR MY VIOLENT PLANS!
WE HAVE THE NUMBERS. WE HAVE THE INITIATIVE. ANY OTHER WAY WOULD SIMPLY BE PUSHING OFF THE INEVITABLE.
KHEEE
KOKO
KAHKK
THE ARK.
WE STRIKE AT THEIR HEART **TONIGHT.**

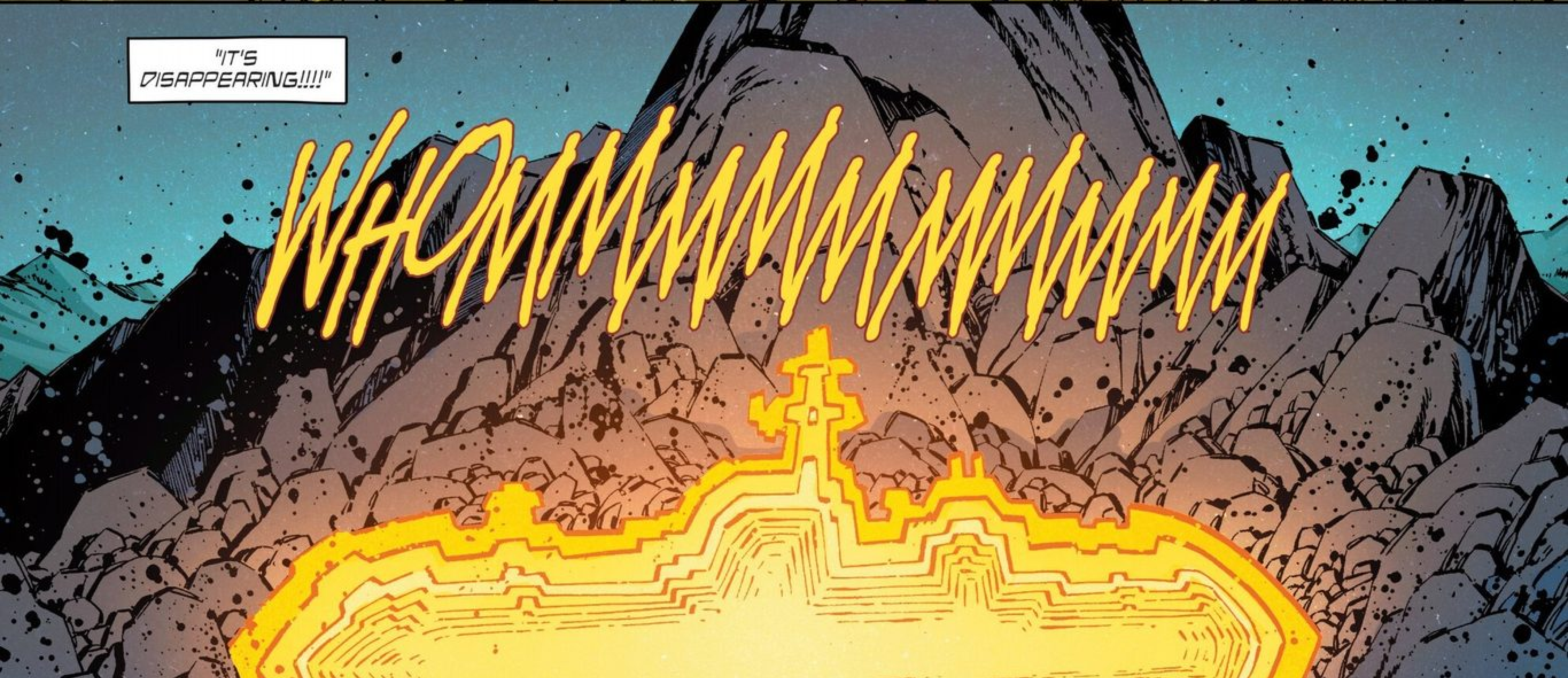

GAGH...
I'M SORRY, PRIME, I'M DOING THIS AS FAST AS I CAN--THERE WE GO--
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR INTUITION WAS CORRECT. AFTER THE LENGTH OF TIME FROM THE LAST MOMENT YOU USED THE MATRIX AGAINST DEVASTATOR, IT SHOULD HAVE CHARGED AT LEAST A LITTLE... BUT THERE'S BEEN NOTHING!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING IS BLOCKING IT--LIKE...
AN INFECTION.
OPTIMUS, YOUR ARM, IT'S--
OH, NO.
BKOOM

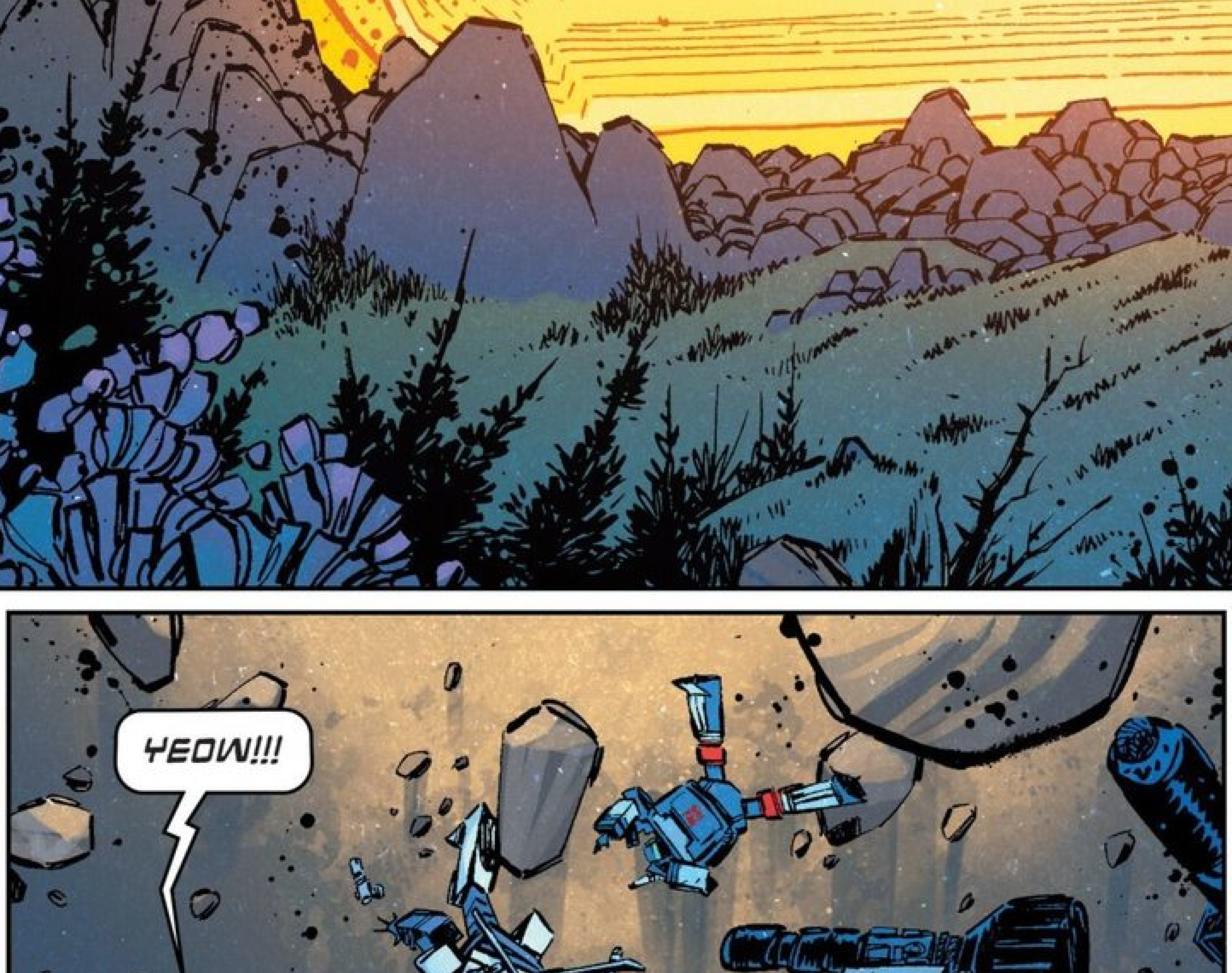

THEY'RE HERE!
OPTIMUS, WAIT!
ZOM ZOM ZOM ZOM
WE GOT INCOMING! BOGEYS ALL OVER!!!
AUTOBOTS, RETURN FIRE!
PEEW PEEW PEEW

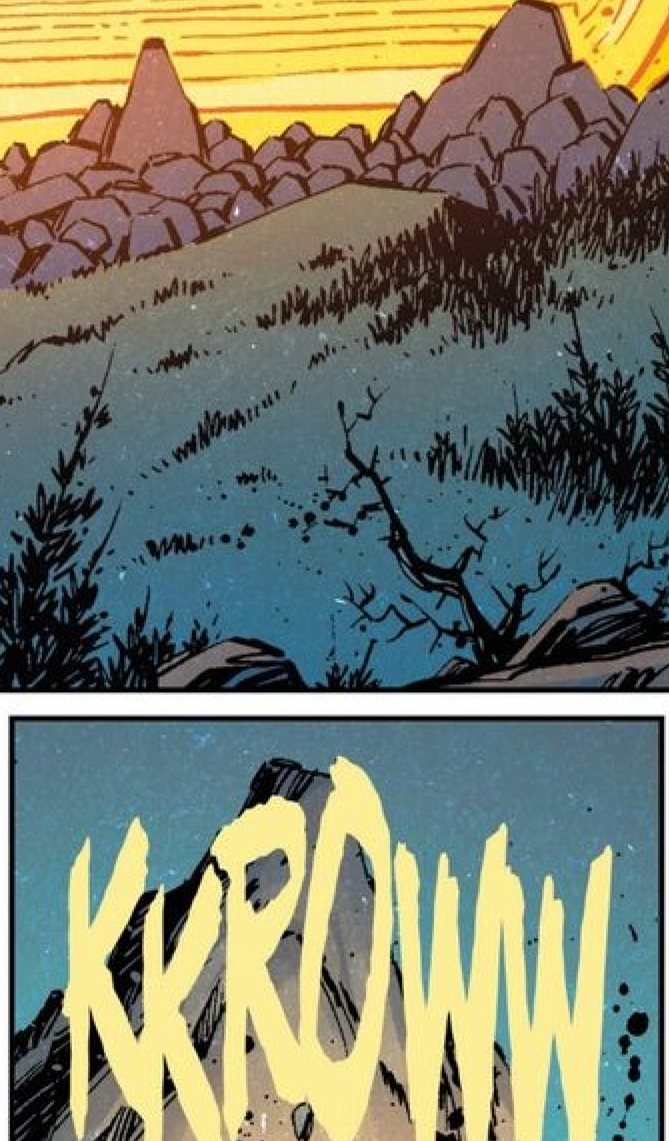

BRUTICUS, DEVASTATOR, NOW!!!
THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN SMASHING DEVASTATOR...
BOOM BOOM
THEY'RE CHARGING! FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!
IS SMASHING AUTOB--!!!
BZOOMMMM
HAHA! WHAT AN IDIOT!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING IDIOT?!!
BRUTICUS! DEVASTATOR! FOCUS ON THE BATTLE AT HAND!
DEVASTATOR THINKS THEY'RE SO SMART!
BRUTICUS WILL TEACH DEVASTATOR A NEW LESSON!!!
BROOOOMMMM

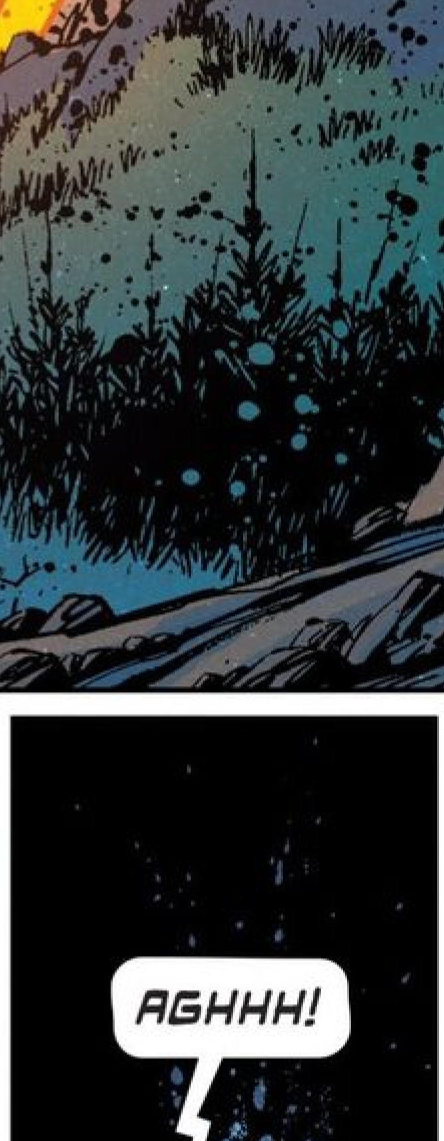

ALL THESE CYBERTRONIANS KNOW HOW TO DO IS FIGHT.
BOOM
CHKATK
LET US GO AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
STARSCREAM'S COMING AROUND AGAIN!
STAY DOWN, AUTOBOTS! I HAVE HIM IN MY SIGHTS!
BZKKAAAKKTTT
SKYWARP! BROTHER! IT'S WORKING!
MEGATRON SHALL FINALLY TASTE THE BILE OF HIS OWN POW--!
OPTIMUS...?
OPTIMUS-- **NO!**
VERHHHA
EEEE

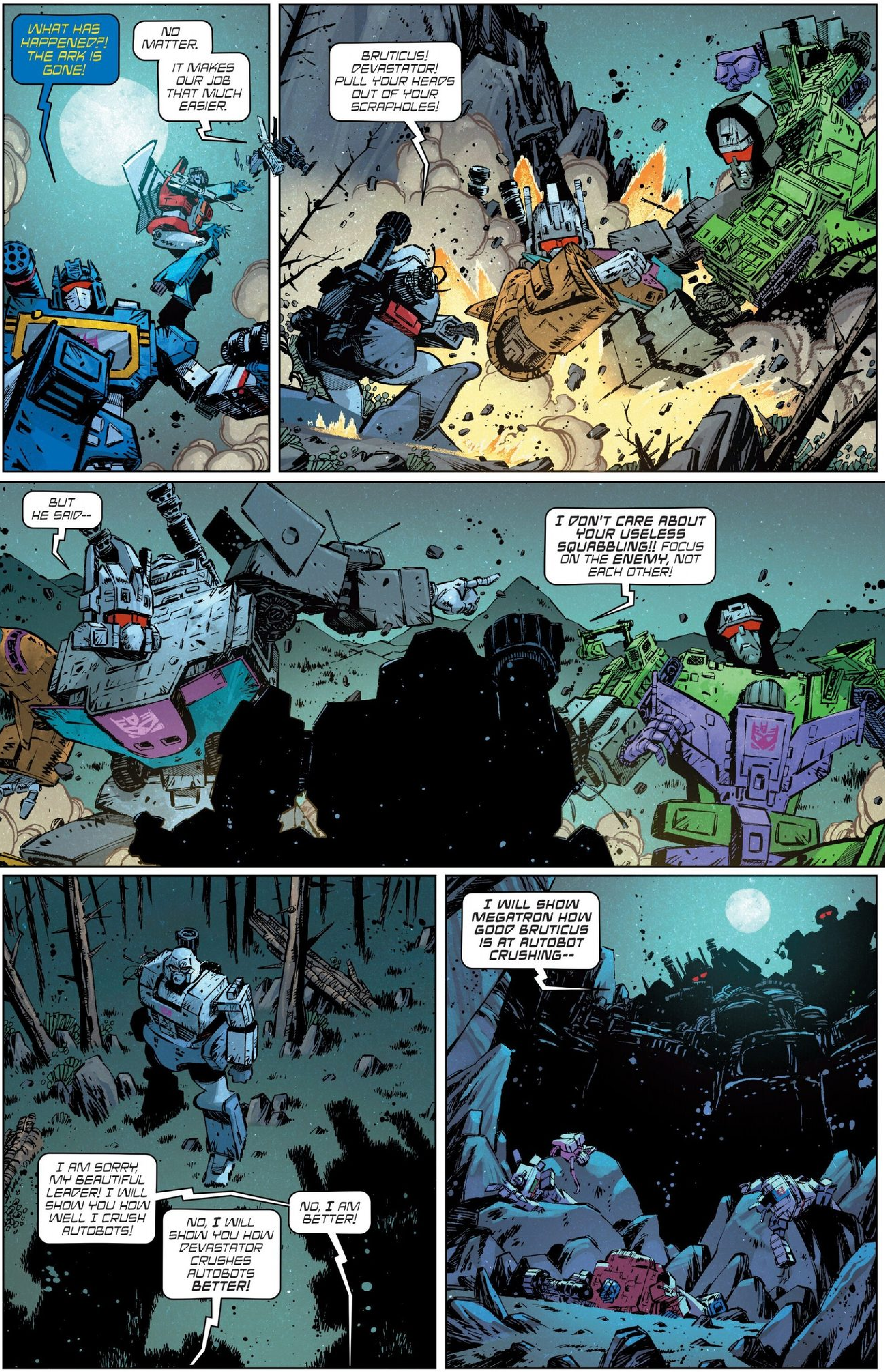

WHA--?
THE ARK!

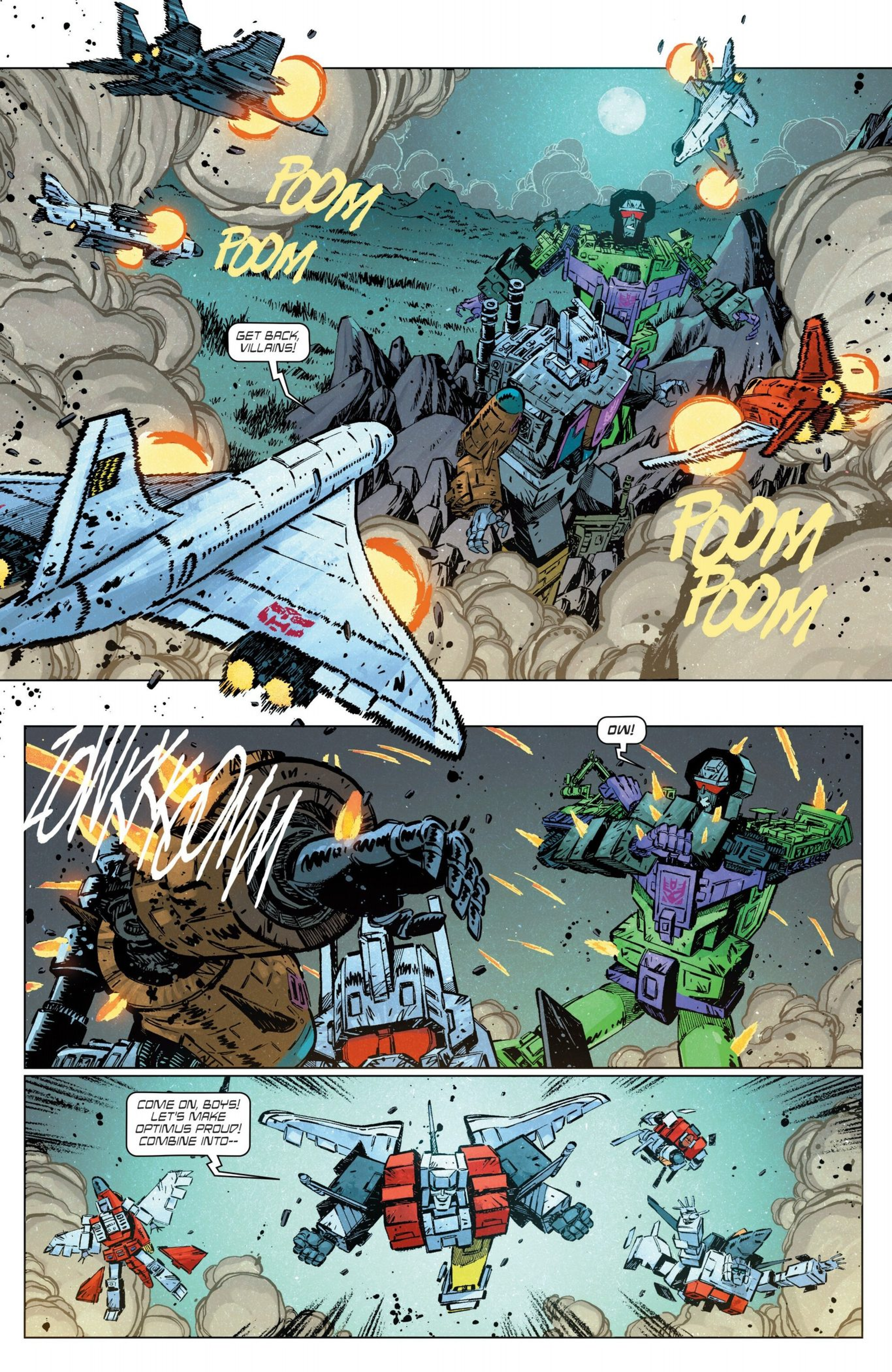

"IT'S DISAPPEARING!!!!"
WHOMMMMMMMMM

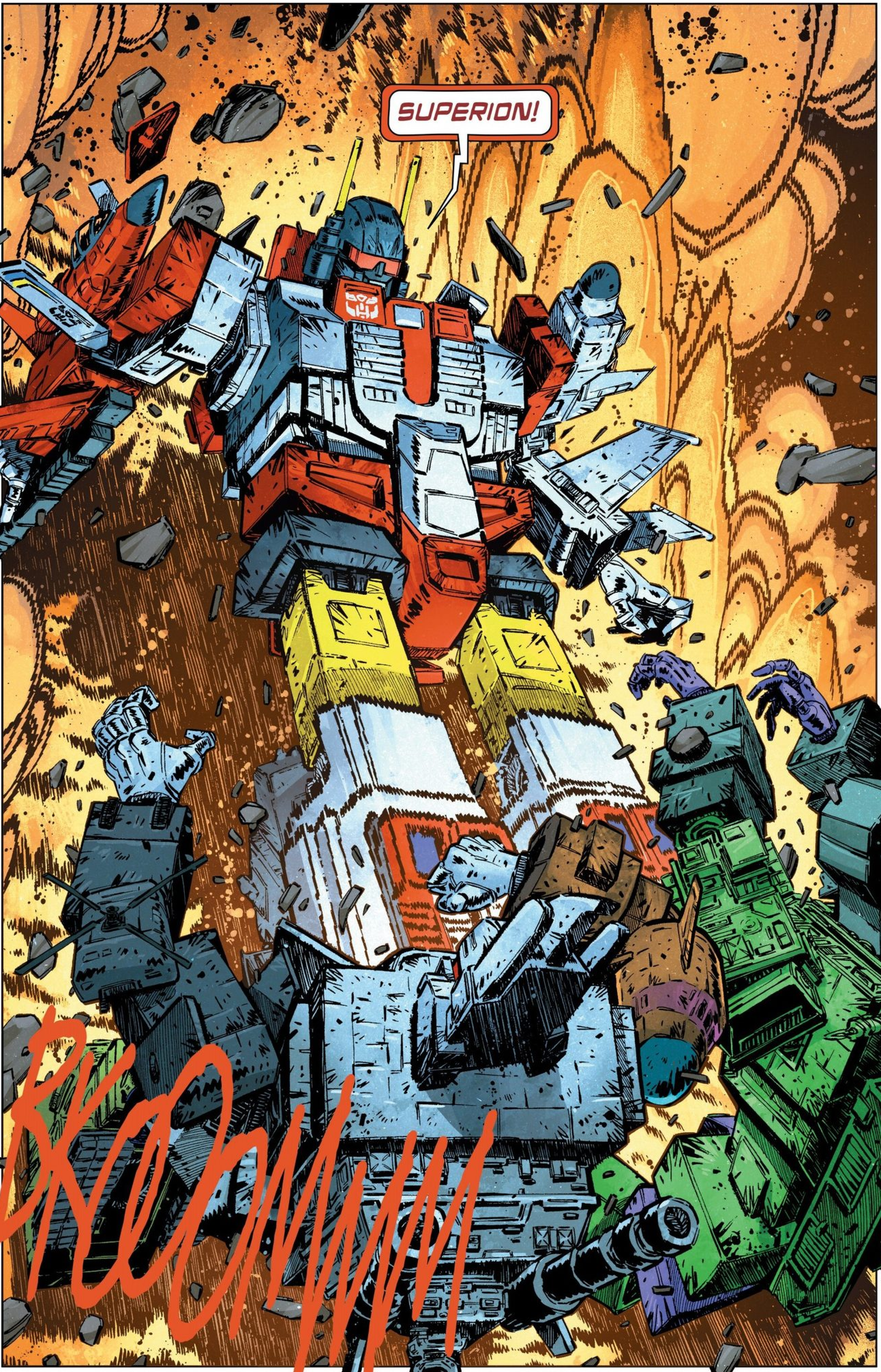

YEOW!!!

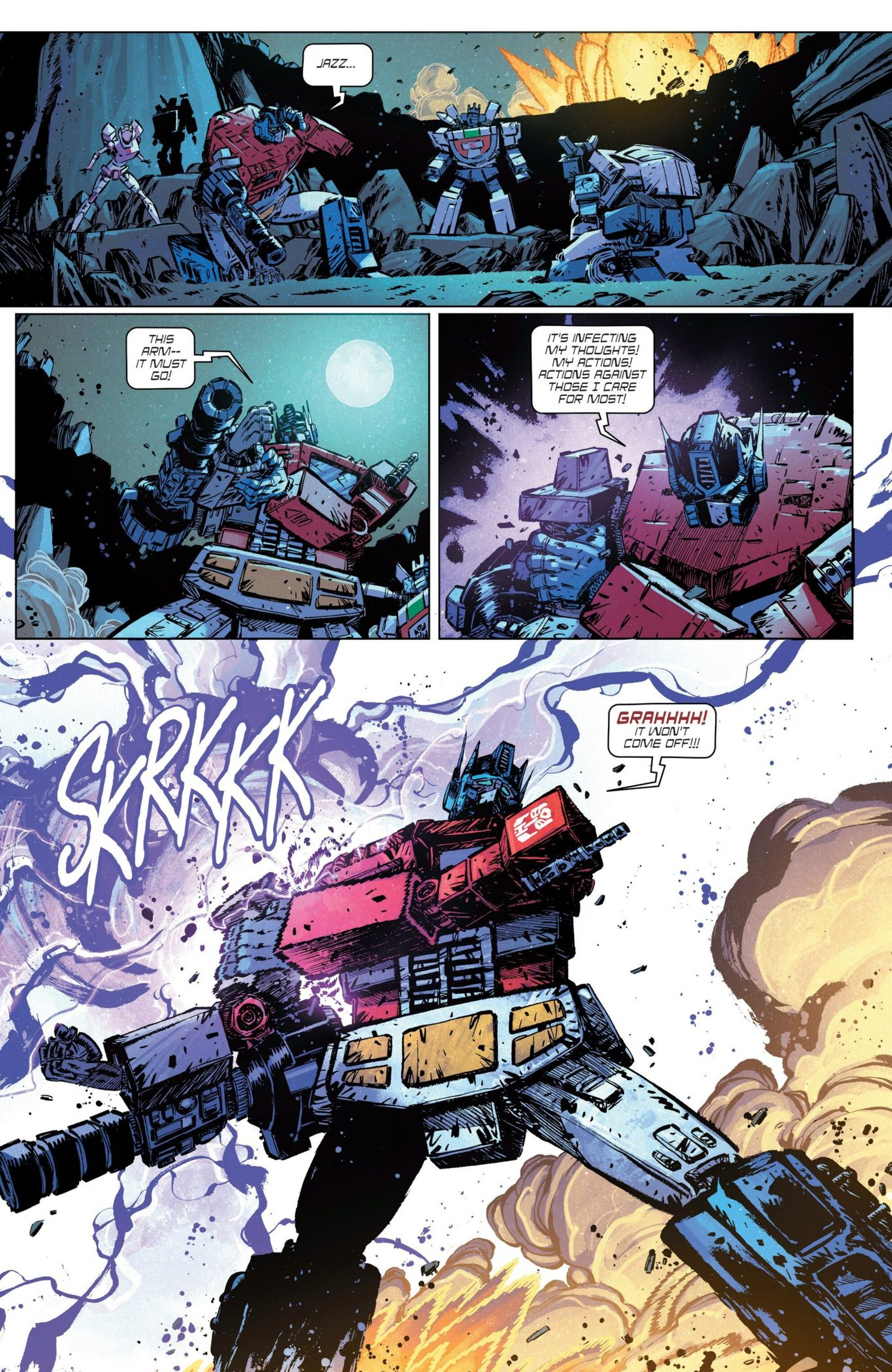

KKROWW

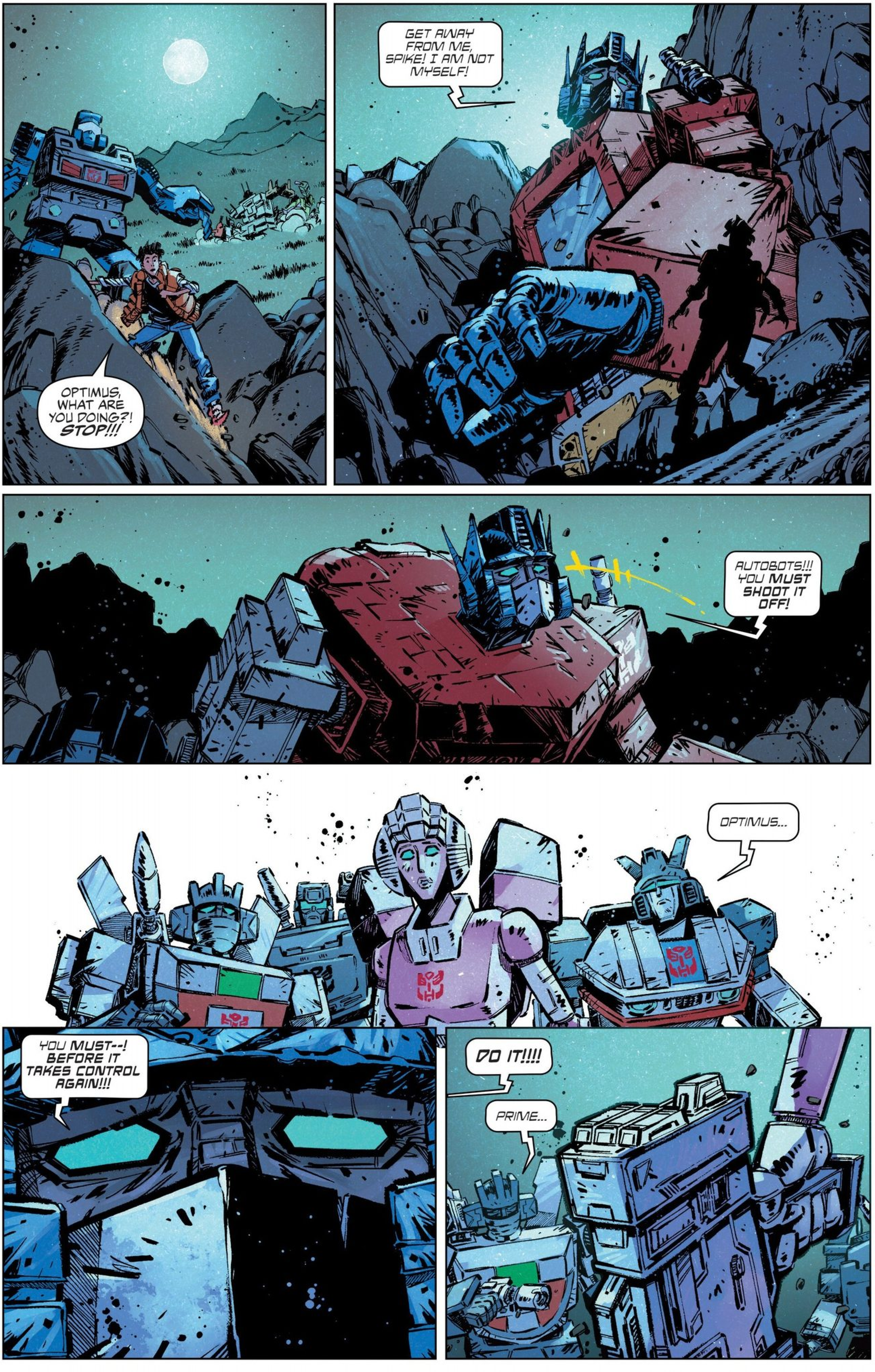

AGHHH!

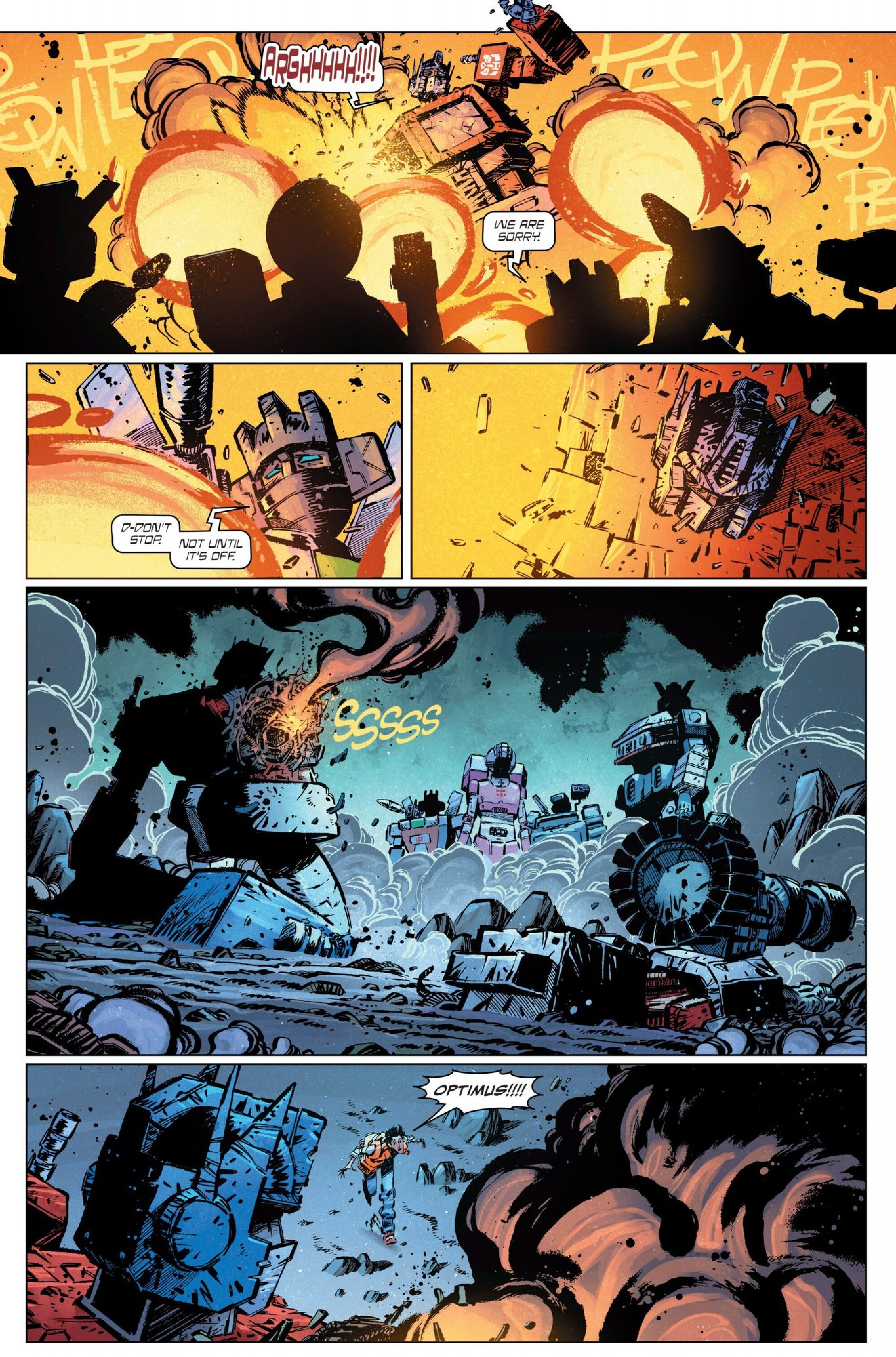

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?! THE ARK IS GONE!
NO MATTER.
IT MAKES OUR JOB THAT MUCH EASIER.
BRUTICUS! DEVASTATOR! PULL YOUR HEADS OUT OF YOUR SCRAPHOLES!
BUT HE SAID--
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR USELESS SQUABBLING!! FOCUS ON THE ENEMY, NOT EACH OTHER!
I AM SORRY, MY BEAUTIFUL LEADER! I WILL SHOW YOU HOW WELL I CRUSH AUTOBOTS!
NO, I WILL SHOW YOU HOW DEVASTATOR CRUSHES AUTOBOTS BETTER!
NO, I AM BETTER!
I WILL SHOW MEGATRON HOW GOOD BRUTICUS IS AT AUTOBOT CRUSHING--

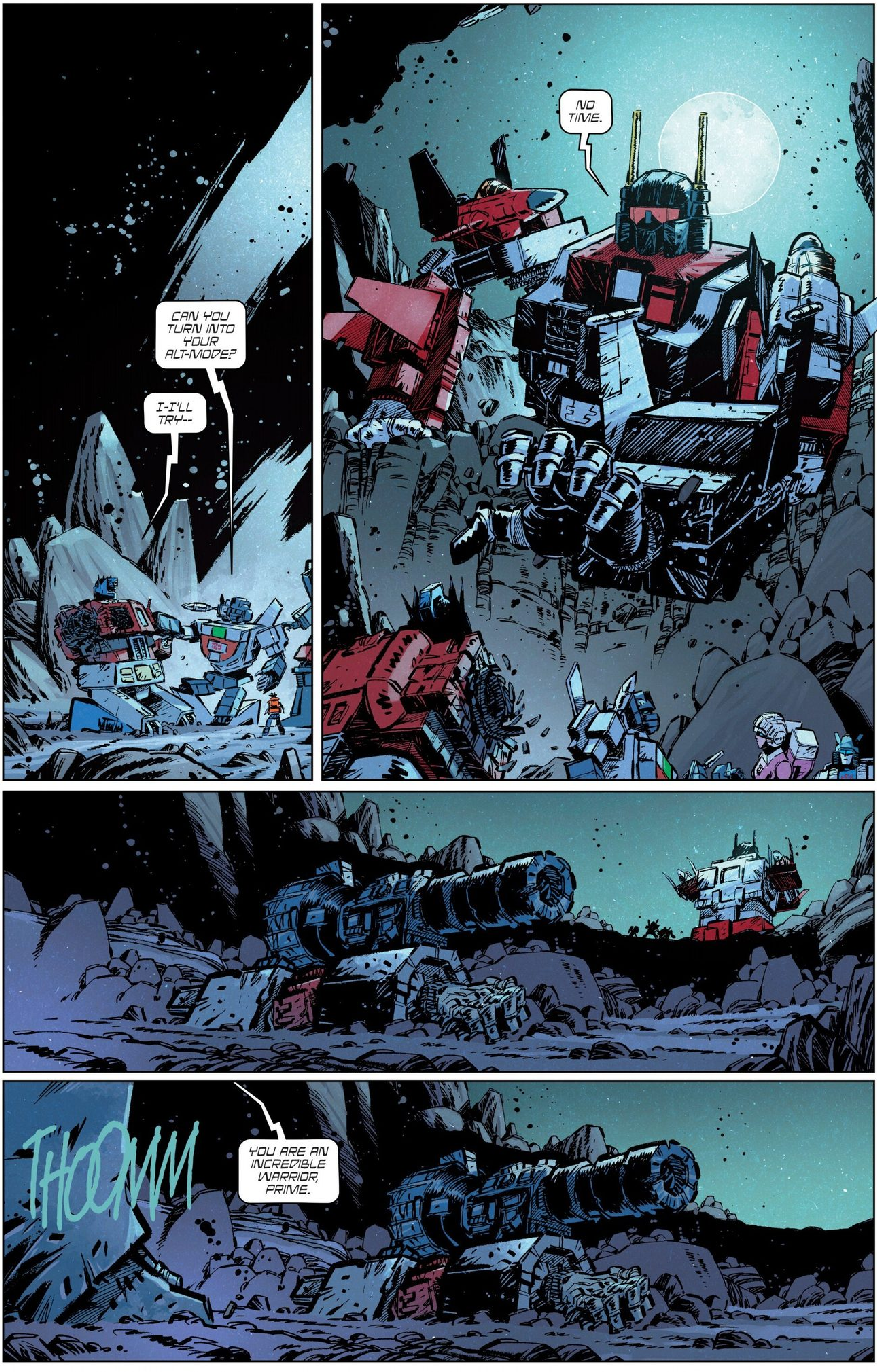

POOM
POOM
GET BACK, VILLAINS!
POOM
POOM
ZONKKOMM
OW!
COME ON, BOYS! LET'S MAKE OPTIMUS PROUD! COMBINE INTO--

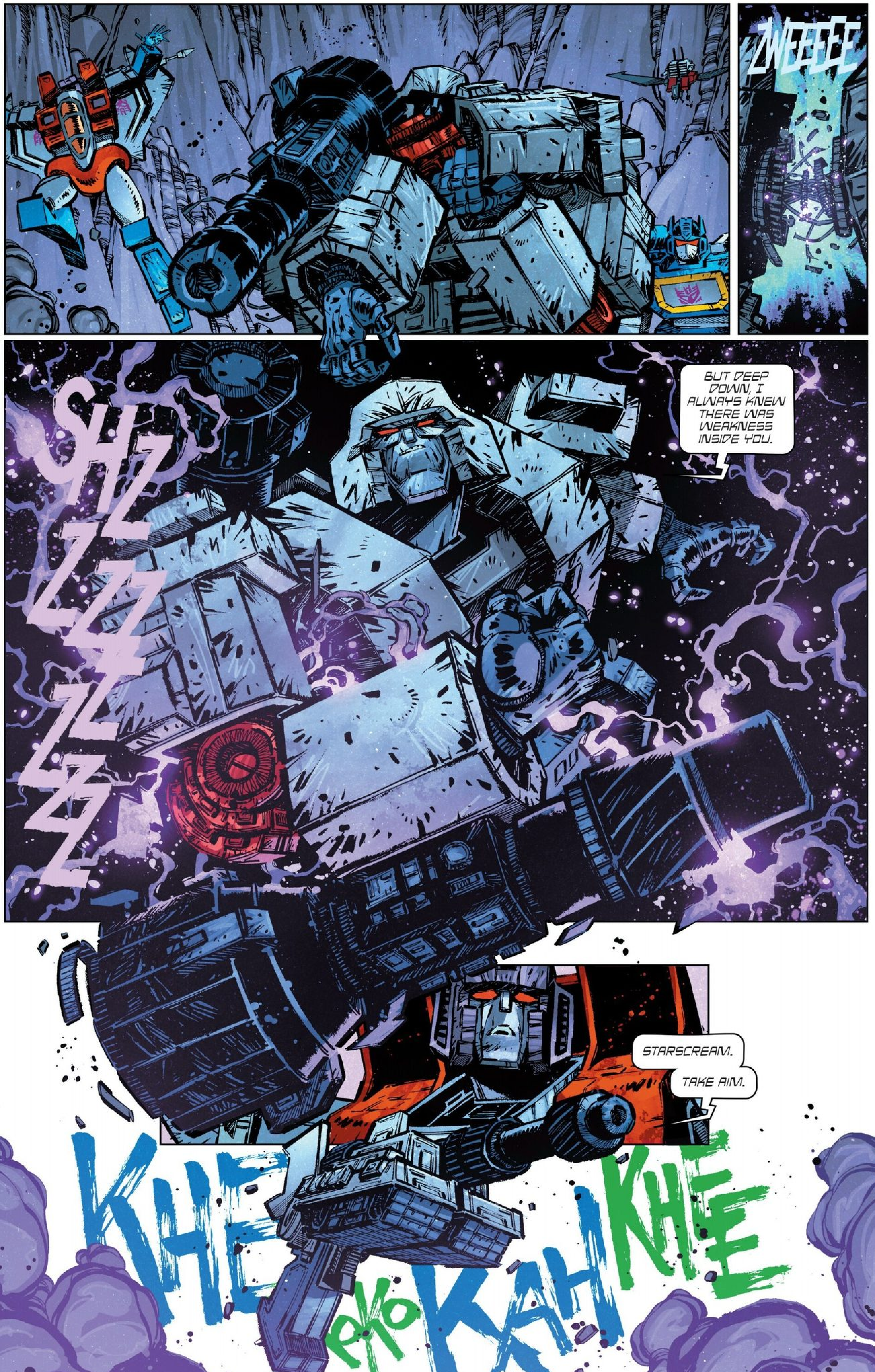

SUPERION!
BKOOMMM

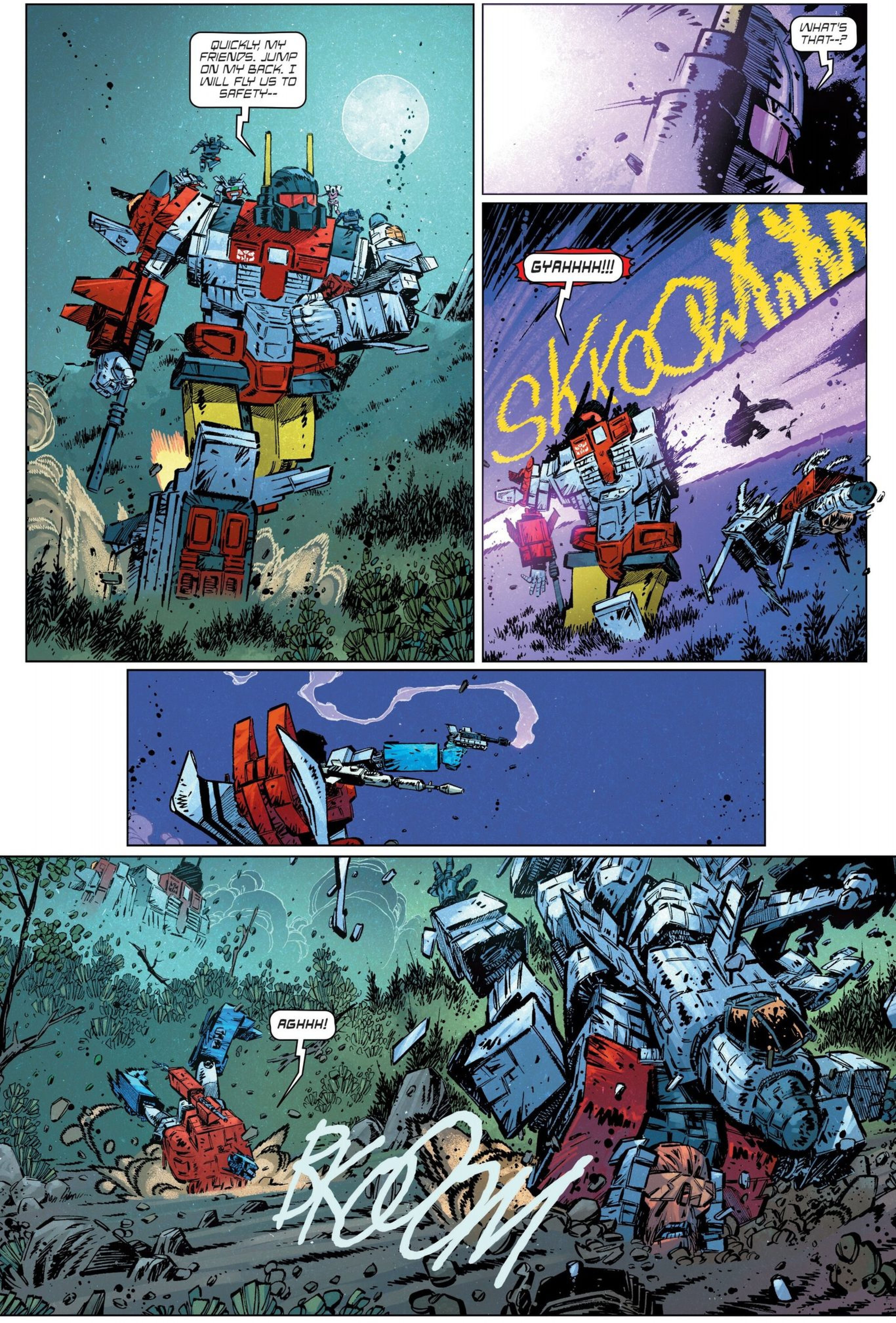

JAZZ...
THIS ARM-- IT MUST GO!
IT'S INFECTING MY THOUGHTS! MY ACTIONS! ACTIONS AGAINST THOSE I CARE FOR MOST!
SKRKKK
GRAHHHH! IT WON'T COME OFF!!!

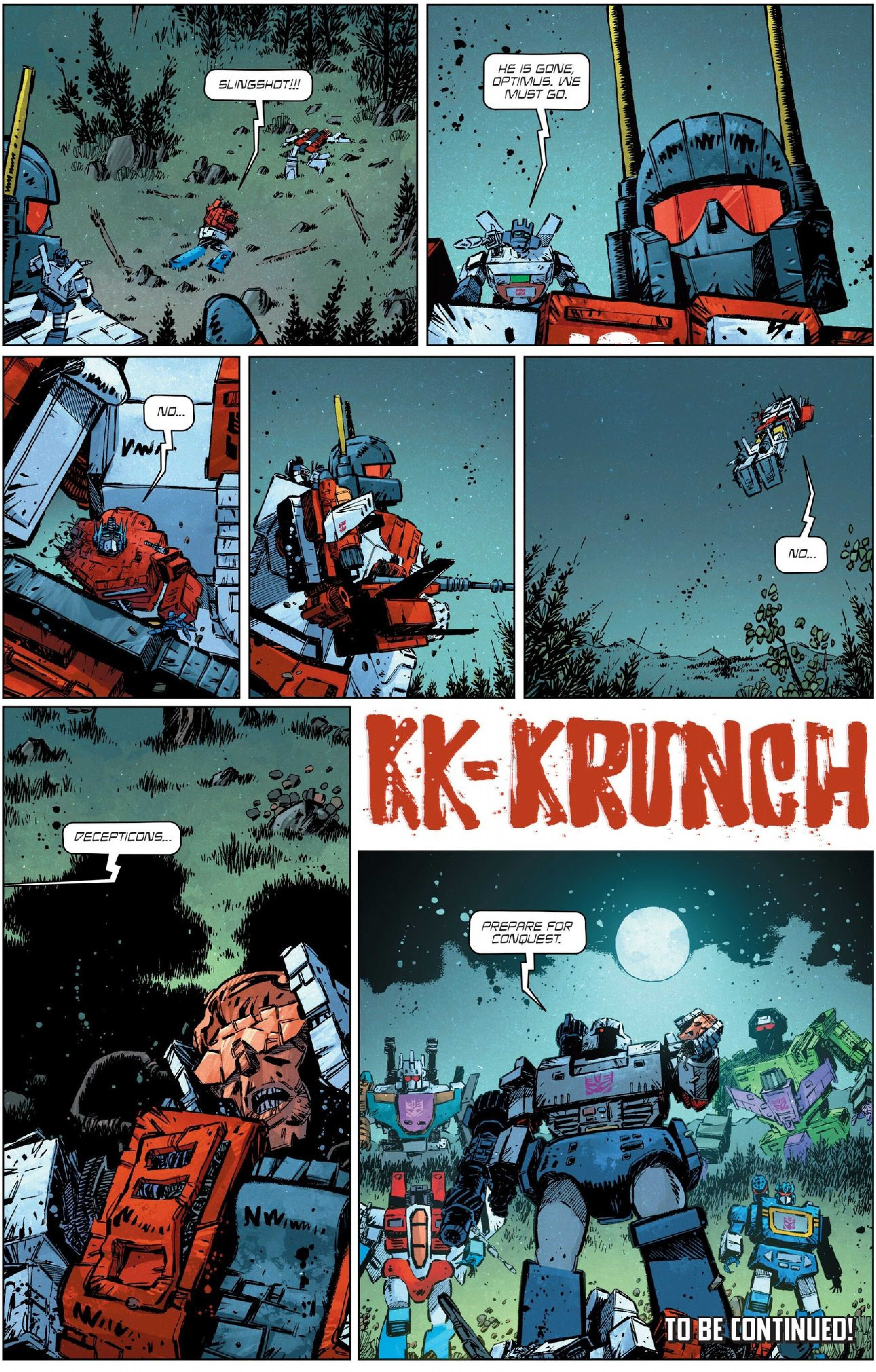

OPTIMUS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP!!!
GET AWAY FROM ME, SPIKE! I AM NOT MYSELF!
AUTOBOTS!!! YOU MUST SHOOT IT OFF!
OPTIMUS...
YOU MUST--! BEFORE IT TAKES CONTROL AGAIN!!!
DO IT!!!!
PRIME...


POW POW
ARGHHHHH!!!!
POW POW POW
WE ARE SORRY.
D-DON'T STOP.
NOT UNTIL IT'S OFF.
SSSSS
OPTIMUS!!!!


CAN YOU TURN INTO YOUR ALT-MODE?
I-I'LL TRY--
NO TIME.
THOOMM
YOU ARE AN INCREDIBLE WARRIOR, PRIME.


ZWEEEEE
SHZZZZZZ
BUT DEEP DOWN, I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS WEAKNESS INSIDE YOU.
STARSCREAM.
TAKE AIM.
KHE PKO KAH KHEE


QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS. JUMP ON MY BACK. I WILL FLY US TO SAFETY--
WHAT'S THAT--?
GYAHHHH!!!
SKKOOWWHHHH
AGHHH!
BROOOM


SLINGSHOT!!!
HE IS GONE, OPTIMUS. WE MUST GO.
NO...
NO...
DECEPTICONS...
KK-KRUNCH
PREPARE FOR CONQUEST.
TO BE CONTINUED!

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Daaaang, what another insane issue! Can the Autobots EVER catch a break?! Editor Ben Abernathy once again bringing you the Matrix of Readership and I'm again joined by the Man with the Plan, Daniel Warren Johnson!

Short answer, Ben, is NO, the Autobots can never get a break! Come on! (For Whom the Bell Tolls is playing in the background right now.) But also, I DO indeed have a plan! Read on, my friends!

Hello TF team,

I've been a big fan of Transformers and an even bigger fan of comics for most of my life (trying to create my own) but I've never sent in a letter.

Well, why not, I just wanted to say I love the series, when it comes out I collect my pull list from my LCS. DWJ has been crafting an amazing saga over the past 19 issues and it's hard to think we're coming to the end of his run, which of course would not have been possible without the slew of talented artists and letters who work on this book. A few questions I have are when will we know who the new writer taking over the book is and with the introduction of Shredhead will we get an original Decepticons character…it'd be pretty sweet.

Thanks for thanking the time to read my letter.

Regards from Ireland,
Jonathon Gibson.

Welcome first time letter writer, Jonathon! To be continued on your first question and I think we can count Genvo as the first Decepticon, right?!

That's correct, Ben! Genvo is the first Decepticon made for the Skybound Energon Universe, designed by none other than the great Jason Howard. I'm sure there will be more Decepticons in the future, but I don't think that will happen during the course of the rest of my time on this series.

Hello from Florida!

This comic is just a masterpiece, the art is just fantastic and has me filled with inspiration. I'm getting my degree in animation and art and just hours before reading the newest issue I got accepted to FIU!!! (My dream school)

I'm currently an animator and I just adore all the Transformers shows and movies (even if it's dated or scuffed or 'of it's time') and their unique styles of animation. But these damn comics are making me curious about being a comic artist. I never thought about it before 'till I started reading comics more and I NEED to do more research on it. Maybe it's not for me but it's such an amazing media.

Forever fan
- Cyn

Congratulations on getting into FIU, Cyn, that's amazing! I think the comic industry is worth researching...it's pretty close to creating magic!

Thanks, Cyn! Making comics, for me, has all the benefits of being creative with drawing and storytelling without the need of a studio and money behind me. There is complete freedom. So, as you move forward in your animation career, I encourage you to explore, even if just in your spare time, designing and writing and making your OWN stories that you can be excited about. Congrats to you and GOOD LUCK!

Hello!

Honestly, the Energon Universe has been such a joy to read, especially since it brought my interest into Transformers again (I even made a custom statue of the "What do you think about going on the offensive?" Optimus panel). I've never felt this interest in a comic before, so congrats to all of the team and their amazing work.

I do have three or four questions, really simple stuff to be honest (one is related to #19)

1. Will we get a clue by the end of the 4th arc of how Dezimir's master was?

CANNOT SAY, SORRY!

2. Will we see more G1 season 1 characters like Mirage, Prowl (mainly asking cuz we did see earlier on the 1st arc police cars with his alt mode), Ironhide, etc...

I'm SURE we will, however for now, the cast is pretty set. More to come in issue 25...

3. I'm pretty sure it's been asked countless times before, but will we see Defensor soon? Since Blades already appeared and all that.

No plans for me to include him, simply because we already have so many Combiners. That being said, I love Defensor!

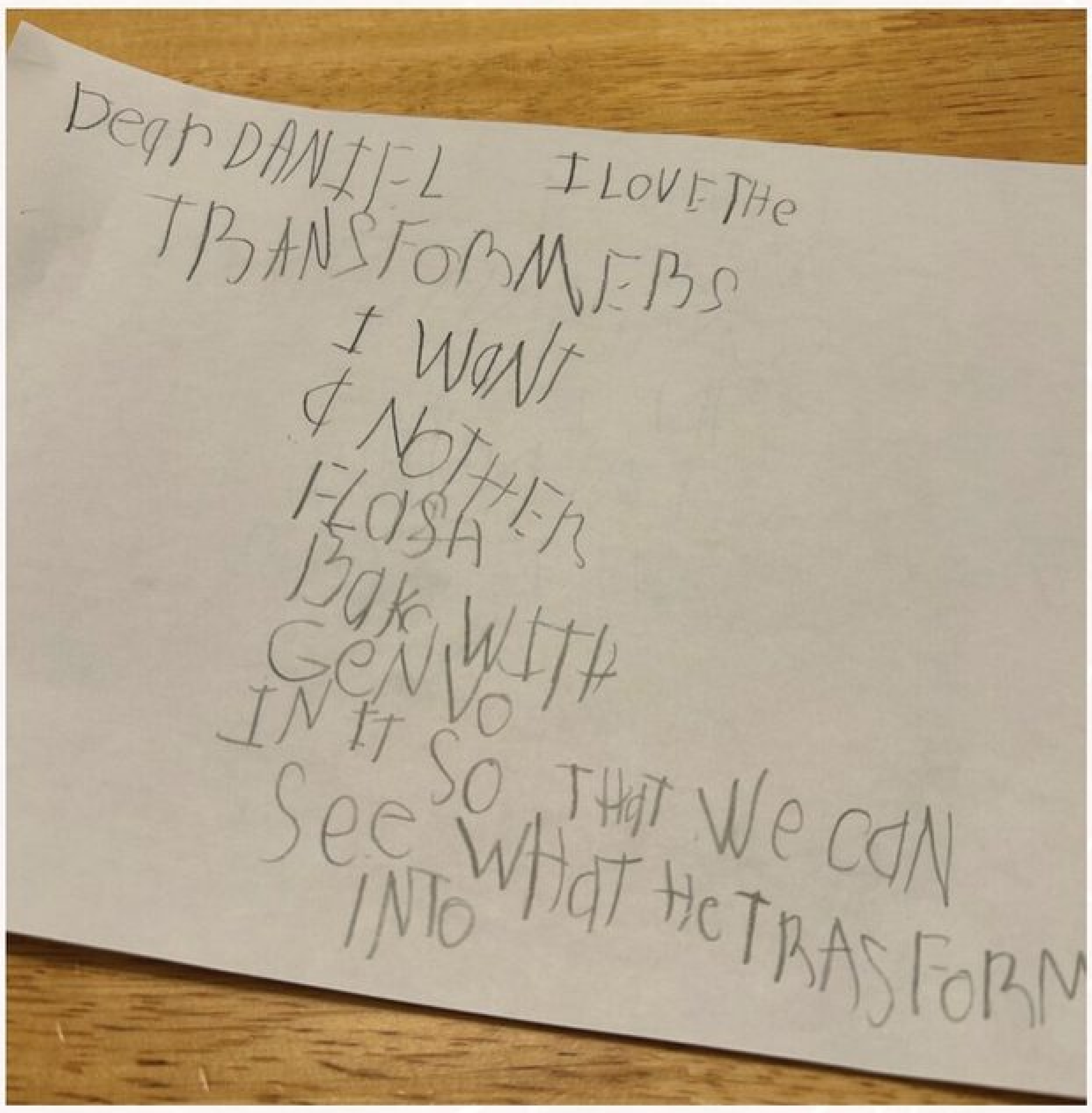
4. Did Optimus still go from Orion Pax to, well, Optimus Prime? Cuz Jetfire mentioned in #1 too that he didn't know he'd became the Prime now, but still referred to him by Optimus, so I've had that doubt since then.

Optimus definitely didn't have the Matrix at the start of his spark coming into being, but that's all I can say about that!

But yea, that's all, love the work the whole team is doing, and hope the end of the 4th arc is as peak as the end of the 3rd arc was. Cheers!

Miguel

Thank you so much, Miguel!



Dear DANIEL I LOVE THE
TRANSFORMERS
I WANT
A NOTHER
FLASH
BaK WITH
GENVO
IN IT SO THAT WE CAN
SEE WHAT HE TRASFORM
INTO

Ben, please show this to the next writer of the TRANSFORMERS so we can SEE GENVO'S ALT FORM!

Bah-weep-Graaaaagnah wheep ni ni bong, Transformers Skybound Team!

I've been practically OBSESSED with the Transformers franchise, since I was---8? 9?

(No clue ¯_(:/)_/¯.)

This comic is freaking awesome!! It's a dream to read. I swear, everyone working on this comic is a certified GENIUS: from Corona's (frankly museum worthy) art, to Spicer (and Stern's) coloring, and DWJ's GOAT'ED writing, I'm blown away by nearly every issue!! The Transformers is by far, my favorite ongoing right now. This comic couldn't be more PEAK (unless you introduce Grimlock).

Okay, the time of well-earned praise is over. The time for questions has begun:

Q1: Is Prime being influenced by Megatron's arm or Spike (or perhaps a mix of both)? Does he just need therapy?

I think you'll know the answer after reading this issue...

Q2: Will Hasbro ever make a Shredhead toy (or Lambo Arcee)??? (I NEED ONE, my wallet does NOT, but yet, my heart pleads.)

Fingers crossed!

ARE YOU LISTENING, HASBRO???

Q3: Grimlock? Aerialbots? Jetfire?

After #20 you have two of the three!

ME LOVE GRIMLOCK!

-Owen

Thanks for the love, Owen! The whole teams works their butts off every month to deliver the best book possible!

It's true, we do! Thanks so much Owen!

I am just floored over and over again by the stellar writing, characterization, and artwork of this series. I'm pretty new to the Transformers fanbase (nor do I regularly read comics, like...at all) and haven't gotten excited about something like this for a long, long while. Before the latest issue (#18), I was seriously wondering when the military was going to show their faces in the midst of all the carnage! Through it all, the gentleness and internal conflict within the Autobots and even select Decepticons is seriously riveting. I love the direction you are taking these characters, and I'm so eagerly awaiting the next issue.

Question--was the lineart style inspired by Bill Watterson's work? The ink splats, color schemes, and high-contrast shadows really call to mind the full-color Spaceman Spiff Sunday comics.

-Sunny

That's a great question, Sunny, so I decided to ask the maestro himself, Jorge Corona. He notes:

"While I'm a huge fan of Watterson's work, I don't think I've ever pulled directly from his line work into my work but, looking back at it, I can see how some of his expressiveness and mark making might be similar. I've always loved gestural, textured ink work and he certainly is a master of it!"

I will also add that Jorge's lines have been inspirational to myself. There's a devil may care boldness to his lines that makes me want to draw, and I can't think of a better compliment to give someone than that. Thanks, Jorge!

And thank YOU, my friends, for staying on this wild ride with us. I know my time here is coming to an end, but it's not over yet! There's more mayhem and wrestling moves to come, hopefully with some good outcomes for the Autobots as well! But no promises!

-DWJ

Thanks, everyone! Keep the letters rolling! Also, as an EXTRA treat, please check out the preview of Ludo Lullabi's new series, GHOST PEPPER...if you loved his work on TRANSFORMERS #19 then this book was MADE FOR YOU!

-Ben

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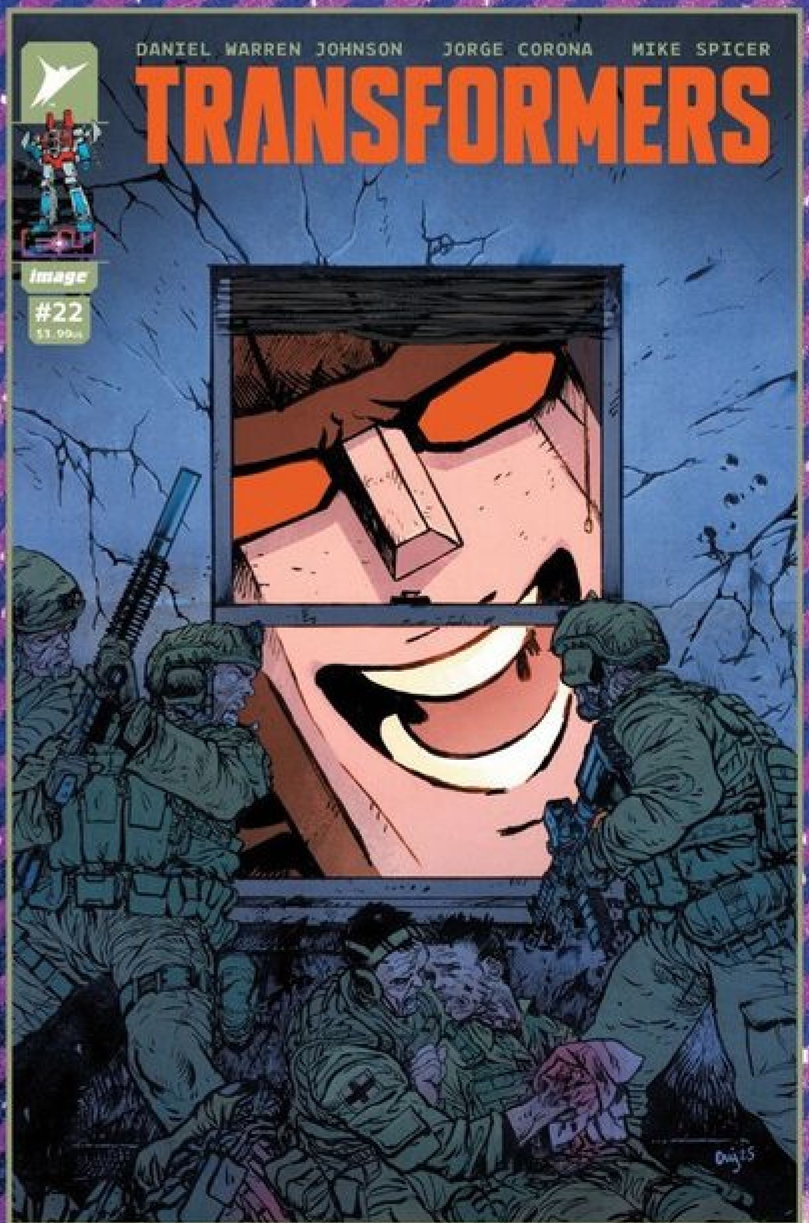
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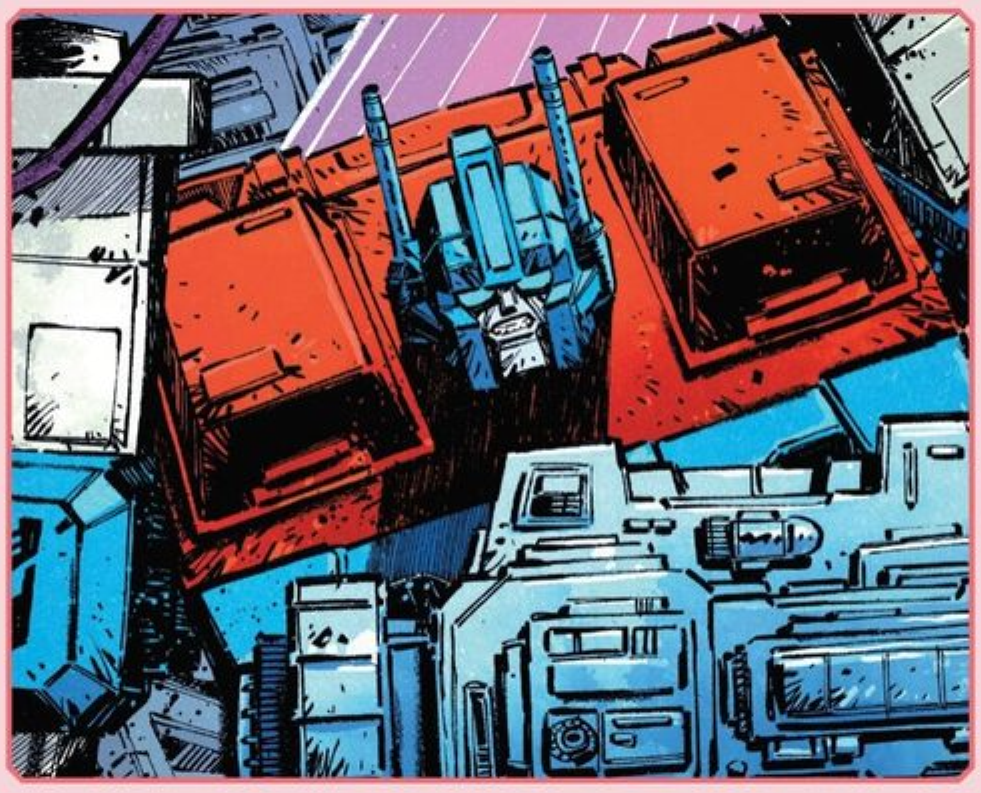
ENERGON EXPERIENCE

Welcome to the Energon Experience! This is a new feature connecting you with the characters and creators of the Energon Universe, starting with your favorite Cybertronians!

Ultra Mangus imprisoned! The Ark highjacked! Slingshot dead! Optimus Prime gravely injured by his own Autobots?! The future looks bleak...but the arc is barely underway and we're grinding toward the inevitable showdown between Optimus Prime and Megatron...assuming the Autobots live that long!

Ben!

-BEN ABERNATHY, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

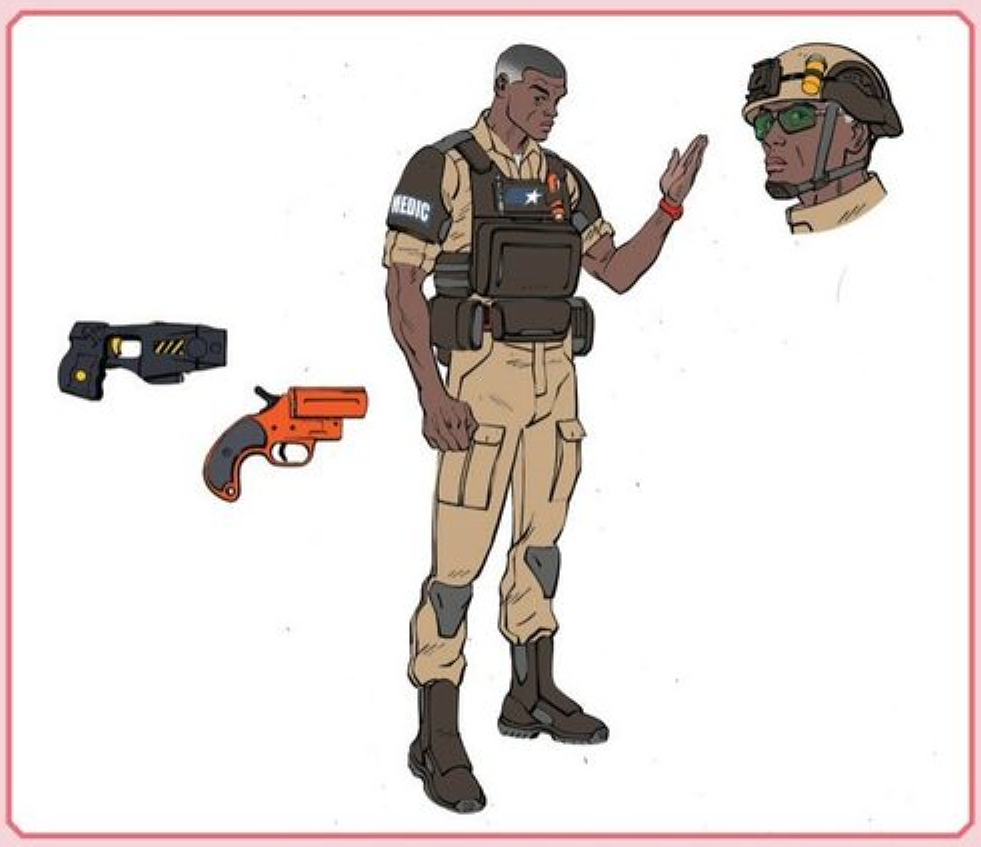


CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Ultra Magnus

WHERE: Fearsome Autobot warrior Ultra Magnus was captured by an American special forces team and is being held by General Flagg in an unknown location.

WHAT: Can Ultra Magnus escape imprisonment and rejoin his comrades in their war against Megatron?



DOC'S THE NAME

TRANSFORMERS introduced an important members of G.I. Joe waaay back in #2 whose codename started with "D"...and that's a tradition we've continued! Did you guys spot the first appearance of Carl "DOC" Greer in #20? It'll be interesting to learn more about this complex man...and what his connection to the confinement of Ultra Magnus is!

CREATOR Q&A

Q: Daniel Warren Johnson--probably the nerdiest question we ALL get asked (and I know we've gotten letters on this)--if you had an alt mode that you could change into, what would it be?

A: It would be a guitar!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #21**
AVAILABLE 6/11

☐ **G.I. JOE VOL. 1 TP**
AVAILABLE 6/4

☐ **CODENAME G.I. JOE DELUXE BOOK ONE**
AVAILABLE 6/11

☐ **G.I. JOE #8**
AVAILABLE 6/18

☐ **VOID RIVALS #20**
AVAILABLE 6/25

For fans of *Battle Chasers* and *The Moon is Folllowing Us*, the Must Read Action Epic
from **LUDO LULLABI** and **ADRIANO LUCAS**

GHOST PEPPER™
image

AVAILABLE JULY 2025

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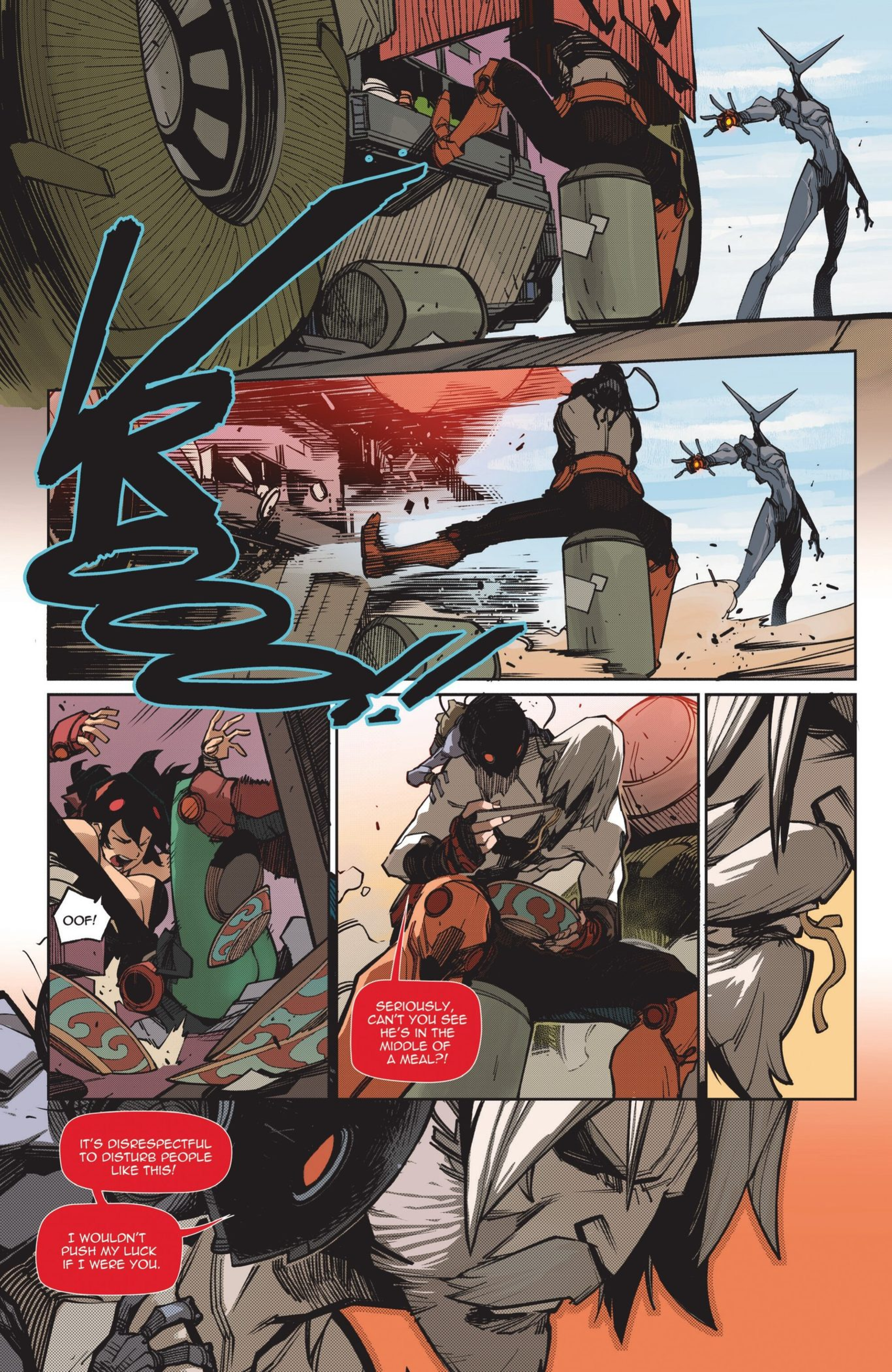
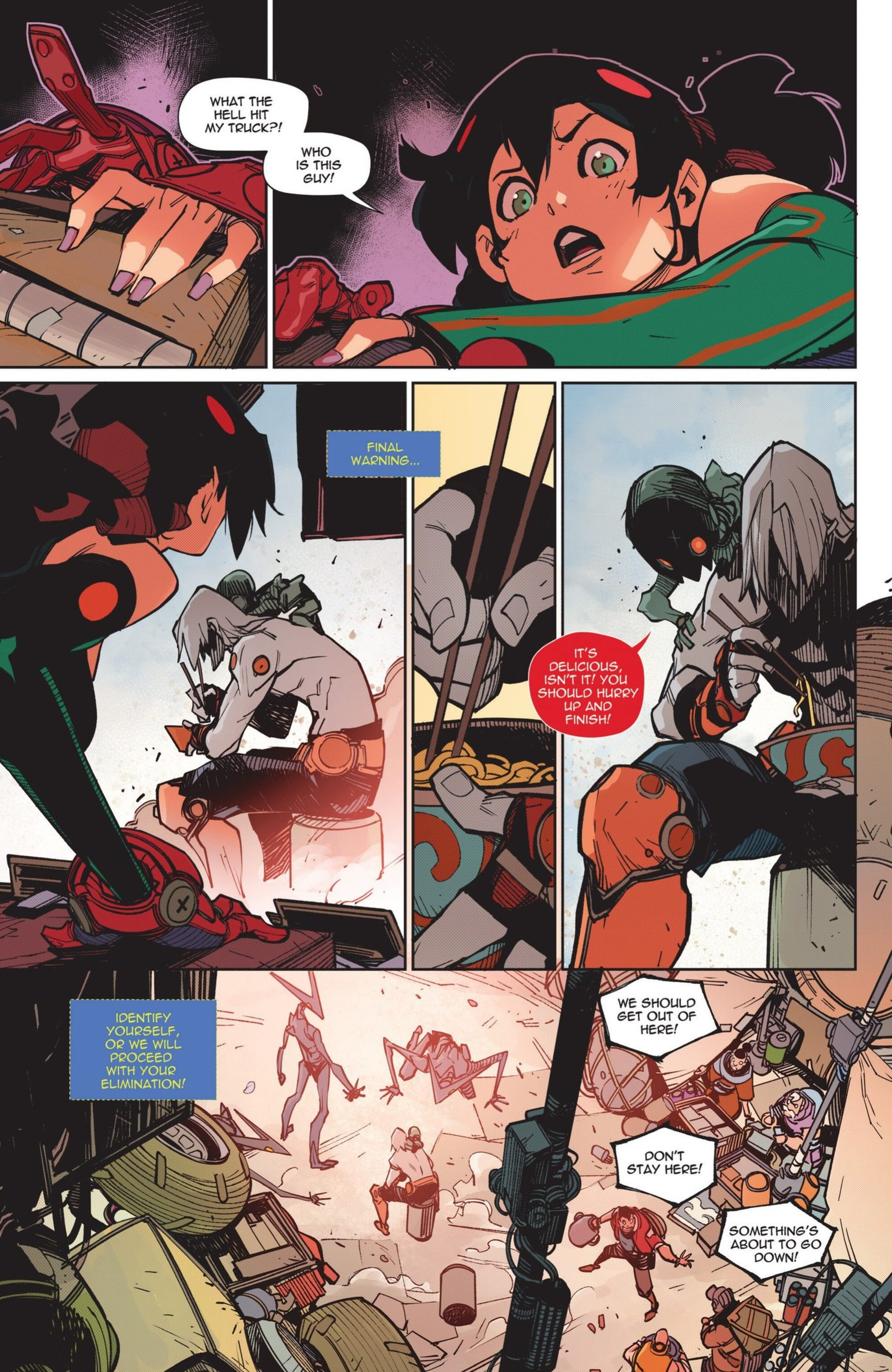
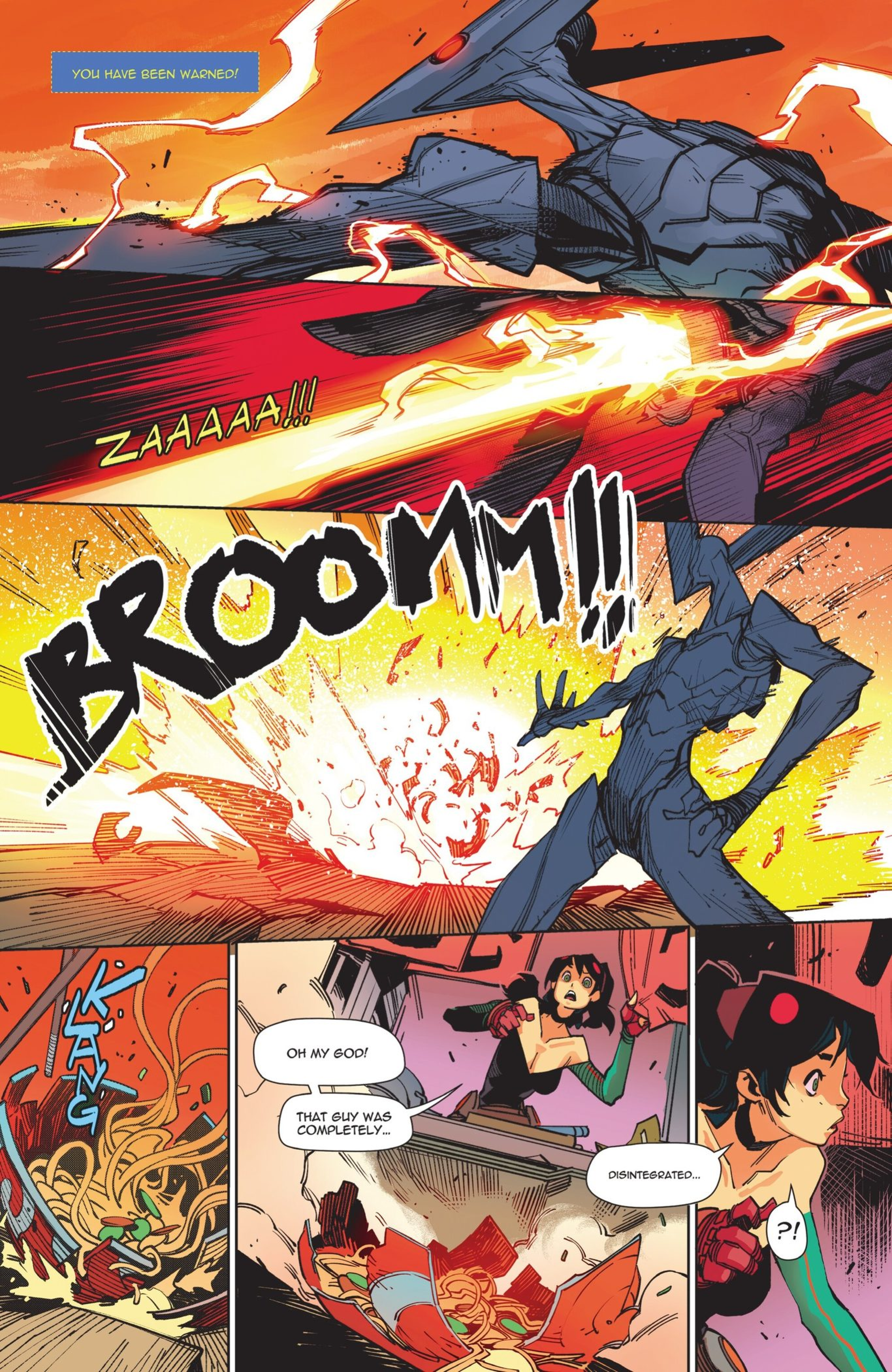
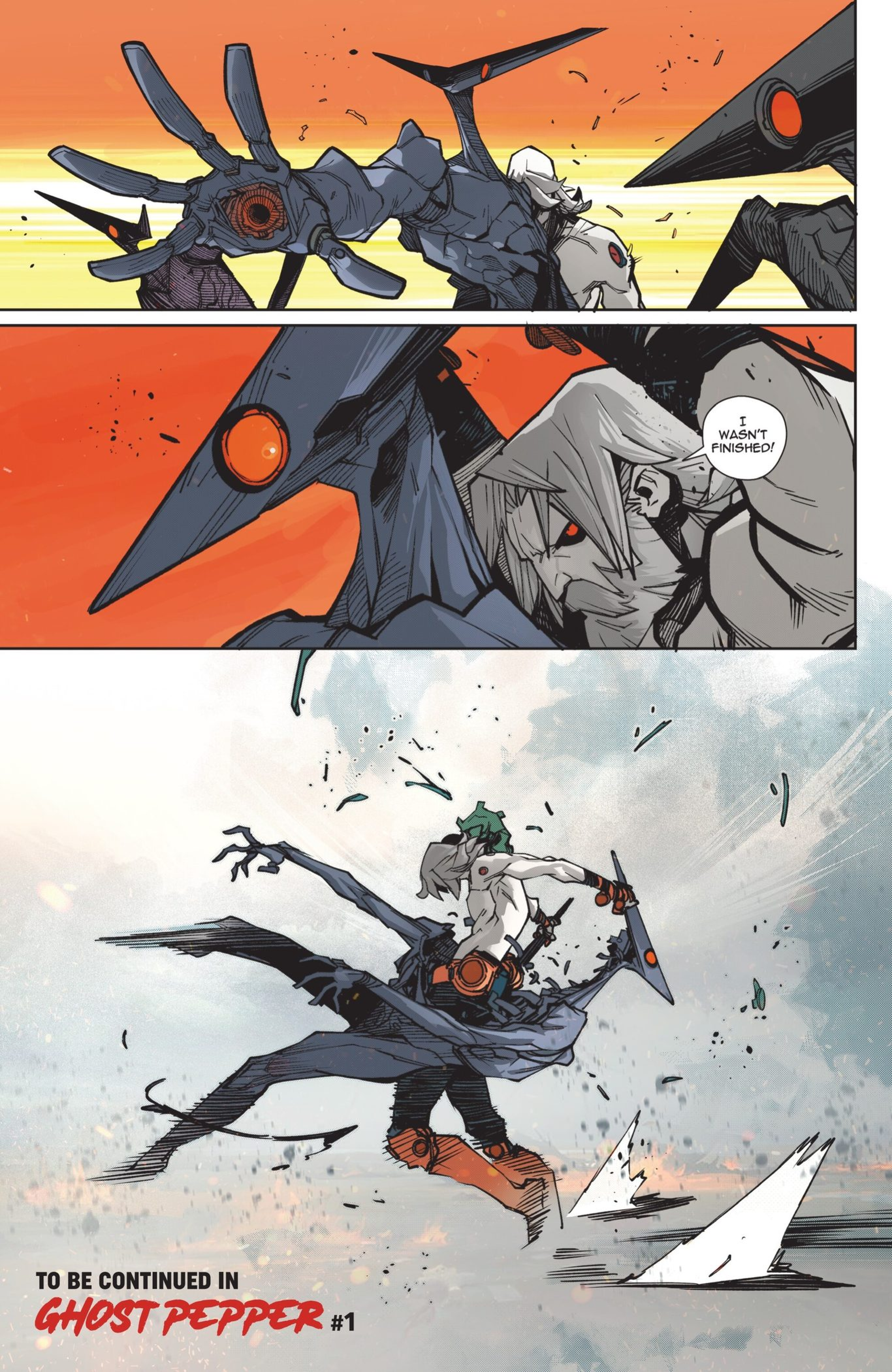

OOF!
SERIOUSLY, CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEAL?!
IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO DISTURB PEOPLE LIKE THIS!
I WOULDN'T PUSH MY LUCK IF I WERE YOU.


WHAT THE HELL HIT MY TRUCK?!
WHO IS THIS GUY!
FINAL WARNING...
IT'S DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT! YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND FINISH!
IDENTIFY YOURSELF, OR WE WILL PROCEED WITH YOUR ELIMINATION!
WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE!
DON'T STAY HERE!
SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN!


YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!
ZAAAAA!!!
BROOMM!!
KLANG
OH MY GOD!
THAT GUY WAS COMPLETELY...
DISINTEGRATED...
?!


I WASN'T FINISHED!

TO BE CONTINUED IN
GHOST PEPPER #1

COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

COVER A

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TRANSFORMERS
#21

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON &
MIKE SPICER

COVER B

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#21

JORGE CORONA &
MIKE SPICER

COVER C

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
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DAVID NAKAYAMA

COVER D

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
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DERRICK CHEW

COVER E

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
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PYE PARR

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JASON HOWARD &
ANNALISA LEONI

COVER G

JASON HOWARD

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